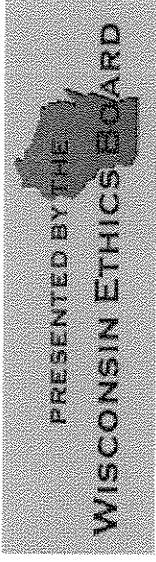


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as of Tuesday, October 14, 2003

**2003-2004 legislative session**

**Legislative bills and resolutions**

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- Text, Sponsors and Analysis
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**Assembly Bill 182**

designating and marking STH 173 as the 173rd Airborne Brigade Highway. (FE)

**No organization has reported lobbying activity on Assembly Bill 182 2003 Regular Session.**

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

<b>House</b>	<input type="button" value="Assembly"/> <input type="button" value="Senate"/>
<b>Proposal Type</b>	<input type="button" value="Bill"/> <input type="button" value="Joint Resolution"/> <input type="button" value="Resolution"/>
<b>Proposal Number</b>	<input type="text" value="182"/> (enter proposal number)
<b>Legislative Session</b>	<input type="text" value="2003 Regular Session"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>

Vote Record

Committee on Transportation and Information Infrastructure

Date: 3/3

Moved by: Breske

Seconded by: Kedzie

AB 182 SB Clearinghouse Rule
AJR Appointment
AR SR Other

A/S Amdt
A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt
A/S Sub Amdt
A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt
A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt

- Be recommended for:
Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrency

Table with 5 columns: Committee Member, Aye, No, Absent, Not Voting. Rows include Senator Joseph Leibham, Chair; Senator Ted Kanavas; Senator Neal Kedzie; Senator Roger Breske; Senator Mark Meyer; and Totals: 4.



Wisconsin State Senator

**Ron Brown**

District 31

## Testimony on Assembly Bill 182 *October 15, 2003*

Good morning, Mr. Chair and members of the committee. I am unable to attend the public hearing today, but please accept this testimony in support of AB 182. The proposal is quite straightforward in its substance. AB 182 simply directs the Department of Transportation to designate State Trunk Highway 173 as the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Highway and, upon receipt of sufficient contributions from public or private parties, to mark the route accordingly. The bill itself requires very little explanation, but I would like to tell you why I believe this measure merits support.

The 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade has a long and illustrious history as part of the U.S. Armed Forces. The unit was activated on the island of Okinawa in 1963 to serve as a quick-reaction strike force to protect American interests in Asia. After receiving extensive jungle training, the paratroopers of the 173<sup>rd</sup>, known alternatively as "Sky Soldiers" or "the Herd," deployed to South Vietnam in 1965 as the first Army ground unit in that war. Over the next six years, these highly trained soldiers engaged in some of the heaviest fighting in Vietnam, as well providing security for medical teams and training indigenous forces in self-defense. During this time, approximately 1,600 Sky Soldiers were killed in action, while more than 8,400 were wounded. The brigade earned four unit citations and had 12 Medal of Honor recipients. In reviewing the history of the 173<sup>rd</sup>, the bravery and self-sacrifice of these soldiers is truly a marvel and deserving of recognition.

It is also interesting to note that while the unit was deactivated in 1972, the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade was reactivated in 2002 under the U.S. European Command. The brigade serves as the Command's only conventional airborne rapid-reaction force and stands ready to provide immediate assistance should a crisis arise anywhere in Europe and beyond. In fact, the 173<sup>rd</sup> was deployed to Northern Iraq earlier this year. Designating STH 173 as the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Highway thus will hold significance for the both the past and the present.

Several other highways in Wisconsin have already received specific designations through legislative action. For example, STH 29 from the Minnesota state line to Kewaunee has been named the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway, and U.S. Highway 41 from Milwaukee to Marinette has been designated the World War II Veterans Memorial Highway. Similarly, STH 32 from the Illinois state line to the Michigan state line honors the achievements of the Wisconsin National Guard's 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. I believe this latter designation, linking the unit number to the highway number serves as useful reminder of those who have served our country so nobly. That is why I think it makes sense to use STH 173, which runs from just north of Wyeville in Monroe County northeast to Nekoosa in Portage County, to honor the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. Appropriately, the highway begins in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, which is represented by Terry Musser, who served in the Herd.

Remember, there is no cost to the state since the markers must be paid for by other interested entities. In the end, this is an easy way to honor thousands of soldiers, some of whom paid – and all of whom risked paying – the ultimate price for our state and our country.

Thank you for your consideration of AB 182. I hope you will support this measure.