



TIMOTHY RAMTHUN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 59th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

9/24/2019

Testimony on Assembly Bill 451, Assembly Committee on Transportation

Chairman Kulp, Vice-Chairman Spiros, and Members of the Assembly Transportation Committee,

Thank you for holding a public hearing today and allowing me to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 451, which seeks to designate a portion of State Highway 28 in Washington County as the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway.

This initiative is the culmination of years of blood, sweat, and tears from many people in Kewaskum and Washington County as a whole. Their effort with the memorial, and now the designation of this state highway, will honor those innocent lives lost on September 11th, 2001, the heroic first responders, and those who continue to suffer from that tragic day. Several speakers from those areas of support; local, county, and statewide, who made today possible, will speak after me. I look forward to hearing their testimony.

The Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial, located on State Highway 28 in Kewaskum, WI, will be an eternal testament to all the lives lost that day, to the acts of courage by first responders and those at the scenes, and an ever-lasting place for people to remember. That memorial would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts and sacrifices of many individuals, some of whom are here with us today.

AB451 will designate a portion of State Highway 28 as the 'Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway'. Along with the designation, this bill will allow for signs to be placed which label the highway, along with permanently identifying the memorial's location on state highway maps.

This bill will increase awareness of a place where people can learn about and reflect on the September 11th attacks and all those impacted. A place not just for Wisconsin, but for the entire nation as well. As Americans, we must never forget.

Thank you again for holding this hearing on AB451 and allowing me to testify in favor of it. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

Testimony on Assembly Bill 451

September 24, 2019

Good Morning Chairman Kulp and committee members. Thank you for scheduling this Public Hearing today and giving us the opportunity to discuss the proposed Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway in Washington and Dodge Counties.

The terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001 were some of the most horrific tragedies to strike the United States in the 21st century. Everyone who can remember that day remembers where they were and what they were doing when they first heard of the attacks. There were at least five victims in the 9/11 attacks who were from Wisconsin. It is crucial that Americans never forget the tragedy of that day and the ongoing impact on families of victims and first responders.

I am joined here today by constituents who have been impacted and have been involved in the creation of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial and Education Center. The Board of this entity broke ground earlier this year and the final product will do justice to all those deserving remembrance.

AB 451 would designate a stretch of State Highway 28, from its intersection with I-41 in Dodge County to its intersection with State Highway 144 in Washington County, as the “Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway.” In addition, this bill seeks to have the DOT place signs along I-41, US Highway 45, and State Highway 28 for the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial, along with identifying its location on highway maps.

Since the rollout of this proposal on the 18th anniversary of 9/11, only two weeks ago, support has been strong from both parties in the Legislature and Governor Evers. I am proud to have a diverse list of cosponsors from all over Wisconsin on the bill. This spring, Wisconsin will graduate from its many high schools the first class of young adults who were primarily born after the events of September 11, 2001. These young people will learn secondhand about these events the same way my generation learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

This highway designation, along with the signs, will increase the number of people who experience the memorial. Wisconsinites and those visiting from out of state will have the opportunity to reflect and remember the 9/11 attacks in a serene, respectful location.

Thank you again for holding this hearing and I would be happy to address any questions members may have about this bill.

Committee Meeting 9/24/2019

Good morning Chairman Kulp, and Transportation Committee members. Thank you for meeting with us this morning on Bill # 451, and thank you Senator Stroebel and Representative Timothy Ramthon for your introduction to the Bill.

My name is Gordon Haberman and I am here this morning with my daughter Julie beside me and other Board members of Kewaskum Remembers 9/11, Incorporated. It is still hard to believe that it has now been a little over eighteen years that our beautiful, loving, and caring daughter and sister, Andrea Lyn Haberman was when on September 11, 2001, 19 members of the Islamic extremist group, Al Qaeda, executed a series of brutal, well-orchestrated attacks on American soil. 2977 innocent lives were lost that day and as a result of those attacks life changed for all Americans.

We recall well the fear we felt for our Andrea and the frantic feeling of helplessness we felt as we watched, along with the country; all of us powerless, as those towers fell and as the attacks spread to the Pentagon and to Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

We also recall well the immediate outpouring of support for our family, starting with ^{FAMILY} teachers and friends of our Andrea, in Kewaskum, West Bend, and Washington County. This spread throughout Wisconsin and stretches to New York and beyond. As the years have passed that support continues as we build a memorial in Kewaskum, Wisconsin. In 2012, Kewaskum applied for an artifact from the North Tower, to be used in a memorial, to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. This application was approved and a section of a support beam arrived in Kewaskum in 2014. The Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial & Education Center is now being built on Hiway 28 in Kewaskum.

Remembrance. Unity. Strength. Resolve. Education.

As the memorial committee discussed what elements the memorial should portray, it was with these thoughts and input that a beautiful design, by Mr. Peter Kudlata and his company, Flagstone Landscaping, was developed. The

Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial, Kewaskum Remembers is not a memorial to one victim, nor a memorial meant to serve only one community. It will stand as a regional memorial to a definitive event in America's history. An event which was felt in every community in our State and one which will continue to affect all in Wisconsin and all in our country. It is the expectation and hope of our Board that visitors will come away from the memorial with a better understanding of 9/11/2001, as well as serve as a reaffirmation of the principles and privileges which we as Americans share.

Primary in our goals is that this memorial; will for generations to come, stand as a historical touchstone linking the past event of 9/11/2001, to the present. The memorial will be a physical structure which respectfully honors the memory of those killed that day as well as those killed and injured in the resulting conflicts afterwards. It will stand as an important source of information for young people in understanding the sacrifices of 9/11, yet also portray the strength, spirit and resolve of America. All of which emerged unscathed in the attacks aftermath. It is envisioned parents and educators will use this memorial as a tool to help instruct their children and students of a day in this country's history which altered their future. A pivotal day in which they; thankfully, can have no conscious memory. It is equally important that young people are aware of what happened on the day *after* 9/11, when both small and large communities across this nation responded with compassion and resolve.

The selfless sacrifice and service of first responders on that day, and every day; will be prominently honored. Our brave servicemen and women who responded and continue to answer the call of duty in the aftermath of 9/11 will be honored as well. It has been eighteen years since the attacks of 9/11; yet 400 Wisconsin soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 128 Infantry were mobilized and deployed to Afghanistan this last summer. They come from many small communities in Wisconsin and have answered the call to protect us from those who hate us. We pray for their safety in what we fear has now become a period of endless conflict.

And this will be one of the few memorials in the country which will honor and educate about those who labored to recover the missing. Still, after all these years, with over 21,000 finds of people recovered, over 1100 people have not been identified. Many of the volunteers at Ground Zero and the Pentagon are succumbing to terrible cancers and illnesses for their service during the recovery operations. The number who will die from these illnesses is projected to eclipse the number killed in the attacks.

Without the tremendous support of the Village of Kewaskum; and the support of the Washington County Board in designating the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial and Education Center as Washington Counties official 9/11 memorial; this memorial would not have been possible. Without the financial support of local business', and benevolent local Foundations, this memorial would not have been possible. Without forming strategic partnerships, such as the one we are developing with Moraine Park Technical College, and without the support of local contractors in offering their time, construction materials and construction expertise, this memorial would not have been possible.

However, it is with the support of caring, benevolent and engaged citizens, and companies who realize the importance and the potential of this memorial and have responded with donations; that this memorial will be built. And with the foresight and support of Senator Duey Stroebel and representative Timothy Ramthum in sponsoring the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway Bill designating on State Highway maps and with signs, a portion of Highway 28 as the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway, visitors will be directed to this important touchstone to an event which altered the course of our country 18 years ago today.

We have two speakers here today who were directly impacted by the conflicts after 9/11. Joshua Schoemann was in the National Guard on 9/11 and served our country in Iraq, and Andrew Johnson, who is on our board and publishes our community newspaper, the Kewaskum Statesman. Andrews son David was killed in Afghanistan. Almost 10 ½ years after 9/11.

Thank you for time today.



We are asking for your support for the official designation of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway to help Wisconsinites remember the events of September 11, 2001 and honor those who were killed due to the events of that day. LRB 3943 is authored by Senator Stroebel and Representative Rasmussen to accomplish this goal.

WHY HERE?

The proposed memorial highway will take drivers and passengers past the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial and Education Center on Highway 45/28 in the village of Kewaskum. The location of the Memorial serves two purposes: 1) it is on two major highways (WI 28 and US 45) and is easily accessible to 90 percent of the Wisconsin population within two hours and 2) Andrea Lyn Haberman, a victim from the North Tower of the World Trade Center, was a Kewaskum High School graduate who grew up in the town of Farmington where the proposed memorial highway ends.

THE MEMORIAL

A 2,000 lb steel I-beam from the North Tower will sit on a pentagon-shaped piece of limestone at the center of the Memorial. The steel support beam will face east, connecting the Memorial with Lower Manhattan in New York City. Five learning centers will complete the Memorial, educating visitors about 9/11 and the distinct facets of it, including the victims, first responders, volunteers, flight crews, passengers and the Ground Zero aftermath. Moraine Park Technical College has partnered with the Memorial to develop five audio self-learning stations and a web application to assist in self-aided learning. In addition, the metal fabrication lab at MPTC is partnering with Flagstone Landscaping to develop the teaching podium.

A Veteran and military tribute area will honor all five branches of the military (Army, Navy, Marine Air Force, and Coast Guard) who have served and continue to serve in the ensuing conflicts post 9/11.

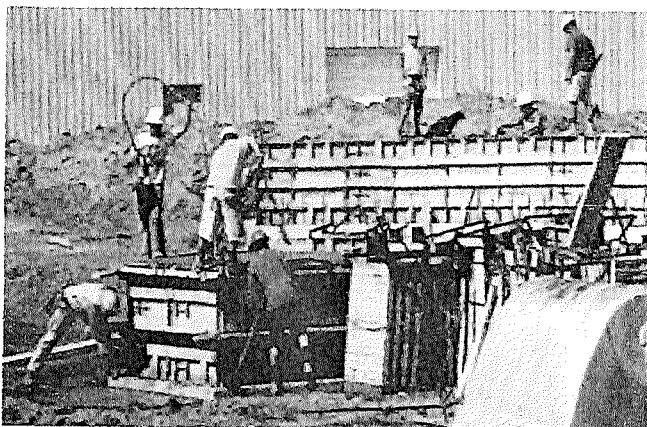
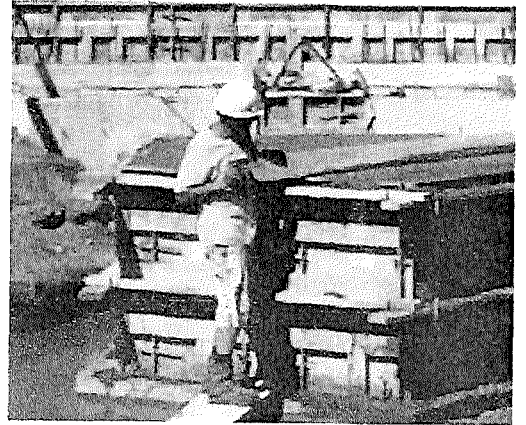
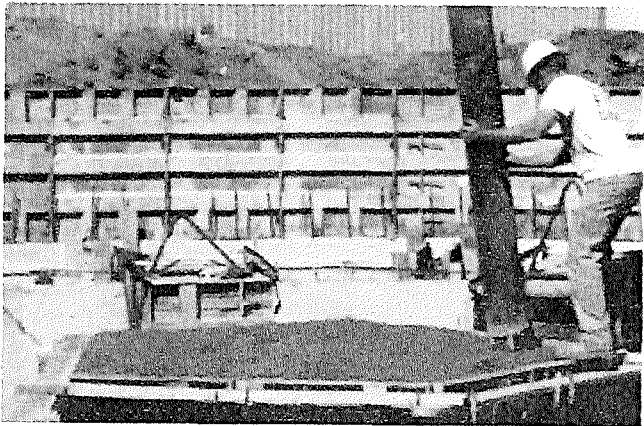
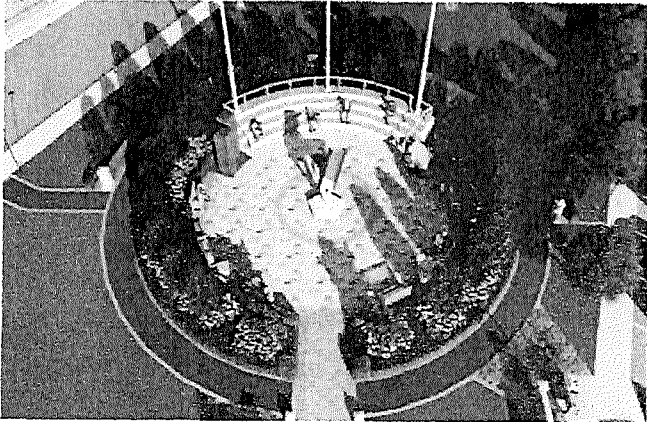
TIMELINE

The Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial and Education Center is currently under construction. The all-volunteer board raised enough money through robust community support to host the official groundbreaking on June 13, 2019. The installation of the rotunda and steel I-beam is expected to be completed by the end of September 2019, and the Veteran/military area will be completed shortly thereafter. As a large portion of the Memorial is being donated by businesses throughout the state, some of the timeline is dependent upon schedules of these partners. It is the goal of the board to have the grand opening of the Memorial on September 11, 2020.

[Photos of the Memorial's progress on reverse page.]

9|11 WISCONSIN MEMORIAL

KEWASKUM REMEMBERS



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Johnson

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- military - Response -
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9-11-19 Wisconsin 911 Memorial Press Conference / Testimony

AD
Meredith's
Randy's
Kurt's

RE: Importance for region and Gold Star families

American's respond

After the towers were hit American heroes began to emerge fireman, first responders, EMS, police officers, brave citizens..... a special bond began on that day.... The role of these hero's that ran toward trouble forever changed.... Many of them lost their lives or were wounded trying to save others. Of course, when we talk about 9/11 we think of the immediate victims like Andrea Haberman in the buildings, those in the planes, and then those who responded. The ripple effects of that day extend far. Now many of these hero's survivors are paying a big price – physically, mentally, emotionally. Surviving families like Gordon and Kathy Haberman also continue to pay a big price to be Americans along with the other surviving families. Surviving with purpose is not easy.

And then there was the military response and the loss of additional lives in the fight against the enemy who attacked us.

In June, my wife and I visited the Army's Memorial to all killed U.S. military members since 911 at Fort Benning near Atlanta, Georgia. It was interesting to see that the central part of that memorial is part of a beam from the World Trade Center north tower. Part of a similar beam will also be the central part of the memorial in Kewaskum that will be put into place next month at the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial. Over 300 of military heroes from Wisconsin have made the ultimate sacrifice – including KIA as suicides. My son, 1LT David Johnson was killed by an IED while in a firefight with the enemy in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. My wife Laura and I along with Gold Star families from across the state are appreciative of this Wisconsin memorial that puts

their sacrifice into perspective and remembers our Wisconsin military hero's. You see....Gold Star families want to make sure that their sons and daughters are not forgotten.

It is appropriate that Wisconsin's Memorial is being built in Kewaskum. It is the only place in Wisconsin that had a direct family member, Andrea Haberman, killed in the World Trade Center. It is centrally located and is approximately two hours from approximately 80% of the state's population. About a year ago, our board realize that this project was much more than just a Kewaskum Project. It was a statewide project. We reached out to Sen Strobel's office in order to start the process of obtaining some state recognition. Naming Hwy 28 the "Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway" will give that recognition.

We need to learn from our past experiences and move forward with a new normal.

Our mission statement:

To build and sustain a 9/11 memorial to remember the victims, honor those who responded, celebrate the resilience of our communities and country and educate future generations.



Office of the County Administrator

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Testimony on Assembly Bill 451 | Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway

Supervisor William Symicek, County Clerk Ashley Reichert, County Administrator Joshua Schoemann

Thank you Representative Kulp for hearing Assembly Bill 451 so quickly. The support for this legislation has been overwhelming, especially since the memorial is currently under construction. In addition to creating the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway, the bill literally places the memorial on the map. Washington County leaders believe it is important to forever honor and remember the September 11 Attacks.

Washington County thanks the Habermans for their success in bringing an artifact from the north tower to Washington County. The story of their efforts to ensure remembrance is truly amazing. We are honored to support this board's accomplishments.

In January of 2019, Washington County designated the memorial the official 9/11 memorial in the county. Supervisor Symicek, who is testifying today and represents Kewaskum, made the motion on the floor of the county board. This effort began several initiatives from the county to help move this memorial forward.

In May, County Clerk Reichert and County Administrator Schoemann, also testifying today, walked 40 miles across Washington County to "Forever Honor our Washington County Veterans." The walk raised over \$170,000. In addition to creating an endowment to place flags and markers every year at Veteran gravesites, the county board voted to designate \$70,000 of those funds to pay for the Veteran portion of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial.

The county board fully supports creating the memorial highway. In addition, the towns of Wayne and Farmington have passed resolutions supporting the memorial highway. Wisconsin motorists driving along I-41 will see the signs for the memorial highway. This will ensure motorists remember how life changed and Americans moved forward together following the terrorist attacks.

Thus far, this memorial has largely been a local effort. This bill states that this memorial will be a space of reflection and education for the entire state. In addition to the county's partnership, Moraine Park Technical College has begun working with the Kewaskum Remembers board to create a web application and curriculum to educate visitors on the history of 9/11.

All of the students within Wisconsin schools were born after the attacks on 9/11. Having a place that will educate and preserve the oral history of the attacks is crucial for Washington County and the state of Wisconsin.

This bill is a first step to having a successful opening of the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial. The bill ensures motorists are directed to the memorial and all Wisconsinites have a place to learn about and remember the September 11 terrorist attacks. We are honored to support this legislation and memorial.

Thank you.



BADGER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 362; ALLENTON, WI 53002; badgerpres@gmail.com

TO: Committee on Transportation

ATTN: Representative Robert Kulp

REF: AB-451

DATE: September 24, 2019

As a Vietnam era veteran and longtime volunteer firefighter and presently serving as President of the Badger Firefighters Association and Gear Up Foundation, I urge the committee to support this very important bill which will serve as our state's avenue to honor those 2,977 victims of terrorism this new day of infamy our country experienced. Even as we sit here in our state capital, there are still responders dying from their exposures to the toxic cocktail of chemicals they were exposed to during the recovery/overhaul of Ground Zero after the attacks on September 11, 2001.

This tragic day, September 11, 2001, has forever changed our country's way of life. This day changed the lives for the survivors of five (5) Wisconsin citizens taken by those that hate our country's ideas and life. The naming of WI-28 to be "Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway" would be an appropriate way to pay our tribute to Andrea Haberman from Kewaskum, Lt. Col. Dennis Johnson from Port Edwards, Lt. Col. Dean Mattson from Luck, Ramzi Doany from Milwaukee, and Scott Johnson from the Racine/Kenosha area.

This length of road to be named "Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway" is in the midst of the membership fire departments of the Badger Firefighters Association. We as an association endorse this venue of tribute to honor the heroes of that fateful day.

Gear Up Foundation, which is a non-profit corporation, is dedicated to remembering our brothers and sisters first responder as a living tribute by donating fire and rescue equipment to less fortunate departments in third world countries. Our foundation is made up of members that are committed to honor and show respect for those that ran to help on September 11th and those who have served and continue serve.

Respectfully,

Ronald J. Naab

Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Kevin Scheunemann and I currently serve as Village President of Kewaskum, home of "Wisconsin's 9/11 Memorial, Kewaskum Remembers". The Village of Kewaskum, its citizens, volunteers, stakeholders, and surrounding communities have spent a tremendous amount, time, effort and volunteer investment preparing this incredible memorial. I was there when the first preliminary discussions started to stir at a local Kewaskum Kiwanis Club meeting, especially among some of the Kiwanis members involved in the committee to launch this project. We were all discussing the "remote possibility" of bringing a piece of steel to Kewaskum from the World Trade Centers. It was a simple discussion at the time, with no clue as to the amount of effort and excitement it would generate for the community in the years to come. Before we knew it, the piece of steel had arrived and temporarily resided in front of the Kewaskum Fire Department in honor of our first responders. Later, after some local debate at Kewaskum Village Board, in working with Mr. Haberman and the newly created non-profit to make the Kewaskum 9/11 memorial happen, a new, much better, more suitable, Village site was decided upon in the current construction location of the memorial. The Village of Kewaskum provided the land resources and the many residents, donors, and supporters in Kewaskum and surrounding communities spent countless hours raising funds to establish this memorial. I am pleased to report the 9/11 memorial, after many years of planning, budgeting, and fundraising, started construction this summer with a lot of community excitement. An incredible feat from a few bold conversations at local civic meeting where we were unsure whether we could even obtain the piece of the World Trade Center at the center of the memorial.

This memorial will, without a doubt in my mind, as Village President, will be a "crown jewel" of the Kewaskum community. It is only fitting the highway that runs past the "crown jewel" of Kewaskum be designated the 9/11 memorial highway.

As a restaurant owner in the Kewaskum community, a large part of my workforce are teenagers. It is difficult for me to imagine that almost all of my current teenage staff were not even around for the events of 9/11. They have no firsthand experience of that day, that feeling of where you were when we first heard about the horrific attacks. This memorial and highway designation is very important in terms of what the local community lost, but also in terms of educating our youth about what happened that day. To this part of our society, it is reduced to a fact in a history book with no life experience of what it was like to live through that day. This memorial will aide in helping to bring alive this historical event for the current generations of young people and generations to come in Wisconsin.

Last September, I visited Ground Zero, and the 9/11 museum, and stood in awe of the reflecting pools and was forever changed by the deeply emotional experience of the 9/11 museum. I highly suggest every American make the trip at some point. The purpose of the museum is to keep 9/11 alive in our hearts and minds. In Wisconsin, we need to do our part to keep 9/11 alive in the hearts and minds of all our citizens. We need to keep 9/11 alive to honor the heroes that day. We need to keep 9/11 alive to honor the fallen on that day. We need to keep 9/11 alive to teach the lesson that evil exists and needs to be swiftly defeated. We need to keep 9/11 alive to relay the experience of what it meant to be an American on that day. Most importantly, we need to keep 9/11 alive to impart what it means to see a nation unified in prayer to Almighty God. With the soon to be dedicated Wisconsin 9/11 memorial and legislative approval of the 9/11 highway, we can let these important local reminders help keep alive the countless lessons from that day for generations to come. Thank you.

Dear Mr. Ramthun

First of all, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Stroebel and to yourself for this wonderful piece of legislation. As a resident of Kewaskum I couldn't be more proud to be able to live on this part of the road to be renamed 911 Memorial Drive. This will always be the drive that never forgets what happened that terrible day in our history. I know Mr. and Mrs. Haberman will be forever grateful for your perseverance in making this a reality.

Thank you once again for making me change my address to one of most important dates in our American history. The road that Never Forgets.

Doug Gonring
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Kewaskum, Wi. 53040



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PITTSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Representative Ramthun,

On behalf of the Wood County Fire Chiefs Association and fellow fire personnel we would like to register our support and thank you for Assembly Bill 451 to designate a stretch of Hwy 28 as the "Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial Highway".

Lt Colonel Dennis Johnson is from our area and this would mean a great deal to not only friends and family but to Wood County Fire / EMS and Law Enforcement organizations in general.

Thank you for your support of First Responders and we appreciate your assistance with any fire service legislation.

Chief Gerald Minor

Pittsville Fire Company

9-19-19