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To: Senate Committee on Transportation, Veterans and Military Affairs
From: Representative Dave Considine
Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 84
Date: May 21, 2019

Chairperson Petrowski, Vice-Chair Marklein, and fellow committee members, thank you for holding a public hearing today on Senate Bill 84. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation, and I'm grateful for your willingness to listen.

SB 84 recognizes the heroism and service of a veteran from the 81st Assembly District by directing the Department of Transportation to designate and mark a portion of about 9.5 miles as the Staff Sergeant Daniel D. Busch Memorial Highway. Staff Sergeant Daniel Busch was a U.S. Army Ranger and a member of the U.S. Army Special Operations Delta Force. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile enemy force on October 3rd, 1993 for his actions while serving as a Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. During this operation, the helicopter that Staff Sergeant Busch was in was shot down by enemy fire. After the crash, he immediately exited the aircraft, took control of a key intersection, and provided suppressive fire against overwhelming enemy forces. In the course of these heroic actions Staff Sergeant Busch received his fatal wound while ensuring the survival of his fellow team members. A hero to not only his fellow Task Force Rangers, Staff Sergeant Busch left behind a young wife, infant child, and a mourning community.

This bi-partisan bill would designate a portion of State Highway 33 after Staff Sergeant Busch to honor his life and service. If passed, SB 84 would recognize a hero of tremendous character and integrity who sacrificed everything for his team and country. Veterans are a vital part of Wisconsin and our nation, and we believe this bill is necessary to honor one of our own.

Thank you again for scheduling this public hearing and for your time and attention. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Dave Considine



JON PLUMER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony - **Senate Bill 84**

Senate Committee on Transportation, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Public Hearing – Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Thank you for taking the time to hear this bill, SB 84.

I was thrilled to be able to co-author this bill along with Representative Considine and Senator Olson which honors Staff Sergeant Daniel D. Busch. SSG Busch is from the Town of Caledonia, which is in Columbia County and a stone's throw from my district. This bill would name the portion of Highway 33 that goes through Columbia County, the "Staff Sergeant Daniel D. Busch Memorial Highway" – most of which is in the 42nd Assembly District.

When SSG Busch was killed that October day in Somalia, he left behind a wife and 14-month old son, Mitchell. Words cannot express the gratitude I have for this man who left his family to fight for his country and later died while doing so. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for a country that he loved. SSG Busch is truly a hero. During his career as an Army Ranger, SSG Busch received the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and National Defense Medal. He posthumously received the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

Naming a highway in Southern Wisconsin does not outweigh his previous recognition nor can it turn back time, but it can ensure that the people of Columbia County and Wisconsin will never forget this fallen hero and the sacrifice he made.

I encourage my colleagues on this committee to allow this bill to move forward so that SSG Busch gets the recognition he deserves.