

HCS HB 1058 -- PURPLE HEART TRAILS

SPONSOR: Busick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill designates specified highways as "Purple Heart Trails" which honors military veterans who have received purple heart medals. The sections to be named are:

- (1) The portion of Interstate 29 from its intersection of Interstate 70/U.S. State Highway 71/40 in Jackson County north to the bridge crossing over Nishnabotna River in Atchison County, except for those portions of Interstate 29 previously designated as of August 28, 2019;
- (2) The portion of Interstate 55 from State Highway O in Pemiscot County to U.S. Highway 40 in St. Louis City, except for those portions of Interstate 55 previously designated as of August 28, 2019;
- (3) The portion of Interstate 57 from the Missouri/Illinois state line in Mississippi County continuing south to U.S. State Highway 60/State Highway AA in Scott County; and
- (4) The portion of Interstate 64 from Interstate 70 from the city of Wentzville in St. Charles County continuing east to Interstate 55 at the Missouri/Illinois state line in St. Louis City, except for those portions of Interstate 64/US40/US61 previously designated as of August 28, 2019.

The cost of signage shall be paid for by private donation.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will honor veterans, especially Purple Heart veterans. Currently, there are approximately 500,000 veterans in Missouri, and many veterans have died in combat. Designating highways to Purple Heart veterans is a way to show an appreciation for veterans.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Busick and Walter Schley.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that MoDOT will be strategic with the signage. The Purple Heart Trail designation

will not affect previous designated highways.

Testifying on the bill was the Department of Transportation.