



SOUTH SOUND MILITARY & COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

6000 Main St SW, Lakewood, WA 98499 | www.ssmcp.org

Executive Leadership Team:

- City of Lacey
- City of Lakewood
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Pierce County

Steering Committee:

- City of DuPont
- City of Tacoma
- City of University Place
- City of Yelm
- Thurston County
- Nisqually Tribe
- Washington State Military Department

Working Group Chairs:

- Clover Park School District
- Pierce Transit
- Puget Sound Energy
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Thurston Regional Planning Council
- United Way-Pierce County
- Washington State Department of Transportation

21 April 2017

Reema Griffith, Executive Director
Washington State Transportation Commission
PO Box 47308
Olympia, WA 98504-7308

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Bridge Naming

Executive Director Griffith,

On behalf of the South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP), I fully endorse and support historical preservation efforts designed to honor and commemorate veterans of the world wars. The SSMCP is an innovative partnership positioned to provide regional leadership to bridge military and civilian communities. Our regional partnership consists of local jurisdictions from across the South Puget Sound and coordinates closely with the Washington Department of Transportation thru its Transportation Working Group which Mr. John Wynands, Olympic Region Administrator, chairs for SSMCP. The collaborative efforts of SSMCP, of which Joint Base Lewis-McChord and WSDOT are members, welcome preservation efforts along this stretch of highway.

It is my understanding, the Veterans Legislative Coalition supports the concept to honor veterans in the State of Washington with landmarks that all citizens can see and understand. Specifically, the initiative to recognize veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts by appropriate signage on the Interstate 5, Exit 114 is encouraged. Additionally, in light of the World War One Centennial, and Washington State's desire to recognize this important event, a fitting sign that clearly honors WW I on the South Tacoma Way overpass with I-5 is needed. The addition of a landmark signage designed to honor the contributions of veterans is most appropriate in this region given the high number of veterans and military retirees living in the South Sound.

SSMCP looks forward to collaborating with you on this initiative.

Respectfully,

COL (R) WILLIAM G. ADAMSON, USA
Program Director
South Sound Military & Communities Partnership