

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 351

2 INTRODUCED BY C. EDMUNDS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING THE GRATEFUL NATION MONTANA  
5 MEMORIAL IN MISSOULA, MONTANA, AS A STATE IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS' MEMORIAL;  
6 AND DIRECTING THAT THE MEMORIAL BE IDENTIFIED ON OFFICIAL STATE MAPS."  
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8 WHEREAS, Grateful Nation Montana was established in 2007 by David A. Bell, John F. McCarrick, and  
9 Gale R. Gustafson to provide an opportunity for tutoring, mentoring, and acquiring a full college scholarship for  
10 children of Montana soldiers who have paid the ultimate price for our country in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

11 WHEREAS, Grateful Nation Montana is a program sanctioned by the Montana University System Board  
12 of Regents; and

13 WHEREAS, the Grateful Nation Montana Memorial at the University of Montana was officially established  
14 on November 4, 2011, in Missoula, Montana, on the main campus of the University of Montana, and on that date,  
15 nearly 800 people from around Montana gathered at the University of Montana for the Grateful Nation Montana  
16 Memorial dedication; and

17 WHEREAS, the Grateful Nation Montana Memorial at the University of Montana incorporates five  
18 larger-than-life-size bronze statues, including the traditional "fallen soldier" battle cross, a young boy representing  
19 the child of the fallen soldier, a teacher representing the Grateful Nation Montana mission of educating the  
20 children of our Montana fallen soldiers, a grandmother, and a grandfather; and

21 WHEREAS, the Grateful Nation Montana Memorial contains 12-inch by 24-inch granite tablets recessed  
22 in the ground surrounding the Memorial, and each tablet contains the name, branch, rank, years lived, and  
23 Montana home town of one of the 42 Montana soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and there are 50  
24 tablets in total so that, if required, additional names can be added; and

25 WHEREAS, the Grateful Nation Montana Memorial at the University of Montana has become a living  
26 tribute to the veterans and casualties of America's conflicts.

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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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30 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. State Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' memorial.** (1) The grateful nation

1 Montana memorial at the university of Montana, located in Missoula, Montana, dedicated to the men and women  
2 who served the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan, is an official state Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' memorial.

3 (2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation are directed to reference the  
4 location of the grateful nation Montana memorial at the university of Montana on official state maps as a state  
5 veterans' memorial for Iraq and Afghanistan.

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7 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
8 integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, apply to [section 1].

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