

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 351

2 INTRODUCED BY EDMUNDS, ARTHUN, CLARK, CURTIS, ECK, EHLI, GLIMM, HAGAN, HARRIS, HERTZ,
3 HOLLENBAUGH, D. JONES, KERNS, KNUDSEN, LARSEN, MCCARTHY, MEHLHOFF, RANDALL, SALES,
4 SALOMON, WILLIAMS, ZOLNIKOV, B. BENNETT, HILL, D. MOORE, SCHREINER, STEENBERG,
5 N. WILSON, S. REICHNER, D. COFFIN, K. DUDIK, J. GURSKY

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7 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING THE GRATEFUL NATION MONTANA
8 MEMORIAL IN MISSOULA, MONTANA, AS A STATE IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS' MEMORIAL;
9 AND DIRECTING THAT THE MEMORIAL BE IDENTIFIED ON OFFICIAL STATE MAPS."

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11 WHEREAS, Grateful Nation Montana was established in 2007 by David A. Bell, John F. McCarrick, and
12 Gale R. Gustafson to provide an opportunity for tutoring, mentoring, and acquiring a full college scholarship for
13 children of Montana soldiers who have paid the ultimate price for our country in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. State Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' memorial.** (1) The grateful nation
4 Montana memorial at the university of Montana, located in Missoula, Montana, dedicated to the men and women
5 who served the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan, is an official state Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' memorial.

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

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10 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
11 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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