

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 717

2 INTRODUCED BY M. WEATHERWAX

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LOUIS CHARLES CHARLO MEMORIAL  
5 HIGHWAY IN MISSOULA COUNTY; DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSTALL  
6 SIGNS AT THE LOCATION AND TO INCLUDE THE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY ON THE NEXT PUBLICATION OF  
7 THE STATE HIGHWAY MAP; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE  
8 EFFECTIVE DATE."

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10 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo, a U.S. Marine from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes,  
11 helped raise the first flag on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi following the World War II battle; and

12 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo was born September 26, 1926, the son of Mary and Antoine Charlo;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo's great grandfather was Chief Charlo, the head chief of the Bitterroot  
15 Salish from 1870 to 1910; and

16 WHEREAS, the Battle of Iwo Jima was a major battle in which the U.S. Marine Corps landed on and  
17 eventually captured the island of Iwo Jima from the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II; and

18 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo was killed as he was attempting to rescue Private Ed McLaughlin, a  
19 wounded soldier stranded in an area of the Iwo Jima battlefield known as the Meat Grinder; and

20 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo was carrying McLaughlin on his back and both were killed just a few  
21 feet from safety; and

22 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo received the Bronze Star for his heroics on Iwo Jima; and

23 WHEREAS, Senator Mike Mansfield, then a U.S. Representative, traveled to Iwo Jima in 1948 and  
24 escorted Louis Charles Charlo's body back to Montana; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Max Baucus had Louis Charles Charlo's Bronze Star upgraded to a Silver Star in  
26 recognition of Charlo's distinguished and honorable actions defending our country's freedoms; and

27 WHEREAS, Louis Charles Charlo is now buried at the Saint Ignatius Old Catholic Cemetery, Lake  
28 County, Montana; and

29 WHEREAS, the 66th Legislature of the State of Montana honors Louis Charles Charlo.

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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. Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway.** (1) There is established the  
4 Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 93 north from mile marker 7 to mile marker  
5 9.

6 (2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Louis Charles  
7 Charlo memorial highway.

8 (3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Louis Charles  
9 Charlo memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$1 from the general fund to the  
12 department of transportation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, for the purpose of [section 1].

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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
15 integral part of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 60, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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17 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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