



AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENSIGN JAMES A. SHELTON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY IN FERGUS COUNTY; DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSTALL SIGNS AT THE LOCATION AND TO INCLUDE THE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY ON THE NEXT PUBLICATION OF THE STATE HIGHWAY MAP; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, James A. Shelton was born on September 20, 1916, near Denton, Montana, as the fourth child of John Henry Shelton and Anice Lucinda Cady Shelton; and

WHEREAS, James A. Shelton graduated from Denton High School in 1934 and went on to earn a degree in forestry; and

WHEREAS, James A. Shelton enlisted in the United States Navy in 1941, where he became an aviation cadet and was commissioned ensign in that same year; and

WHEREAS, James A. Shelton was assigned to VS-6 aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise at Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, James A. Shelton was part of the squadron assigned to find the Japanese fleet at the Battle of Midway on June 4, 1942, a turning point in the Second World War; and

WHEREAS, James A. Shelton, along with several members of the aviator squadrons, continued the attack despite low fuel levels and never returned from the battle; and

WHEREAS, James A. Shelton was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in 1942 and two naval destroyers have subsequently been named in his honor.

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

Section 1. Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway. (1) There is established the Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway on the existing state highway 81, beginning at the intersection of state highway 81 and U.S. highway 191 and ending at the intersection of state highways 81 and 80.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in the state must be updated to include the location of the Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

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

Section 3. Effective Date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
SB 309, originated in the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

SENATE BILL NO. 309

INTRODUCED BY D. BARTEL

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