

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-16

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Washington, supporting officially naming the area of I-5 from mile post 116 (Mounts Road exit), to mile post 125 (McChord exit) the “Remembrance Corridor;” and the placement of a historical marker, and the ongoing efforts to preserve surviving trees.

WHEREAS, in 1928, the Tacoma Garden Club established a plan to commemorate those who served in World War I; and

WHEREAS, individual citizens and organizations in Pierce County funded the placement of 500 northern scarlet, english, and red oak trees; and

WHEREAS, this tree-lined memorial boulevard was planted along the Pacific Highway (now I-5) from the Nisqually River to Ponders Station; and

WHEREAS, each tree memorializes an individual, organization, or military unit that served during World War I; and

WHEREAS, many of the trees are visibly marked by a copper plaque set in stone recording the name of the honored person or organization; and

WHEREAS, those honored and commemorated represented all areas of the nation; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 1928, the “Boulevard of Remembrance” was formally dedicated by local and state leaders; and

WHEREAS, in the decades that followed, a large portion of the memorial was destroyed by expanding roadways and freeway construction, thereby reducing the number of trees on the “Boulevard of Remembrance” from 500 to 66; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, a group of local preservationists, including Charlotte Medlock (b. 1925), waged a successful campaign to save the 66 surviving trees; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Pierce County Resolution R89-164 recognized the importance of preserving the “Boulevard of Remembrance” as a visible commemoration of the sacrifices many bore in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the 66 remaining trees located along I-5, from the Nisqually River to Ponders Corner and Fort Lewis, continue to honor our World War I veterans, organizations, and other individuals who contributed to the war effort; and

WHEREAS, this stretch of highway runs through Joint Base Lewis McChord and communities which are home to many military members and veterans, and

WHEREAS, through a collaborative effort of local and state leaders, a request has been made to the Washington State Department of Transportation to officially name the area of I-5 from mile post 116 (Mounts Road exit), to mile post 125 (McChord exit) the “Remembrance Corridor;” and

WHEREAS, a further request has been made for the placement of a “Remembrance Corridor” sign at the entrance of this area, as well as a historical marker, accessible for public viewing, describing the history and significance of the memorial; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON HEREBY RESOLVES, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council supports the naming of the “Remembrance Corridor,” the placement of a historical marker, and the ongoing efforts to preserve the surviving trees.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

PASSED by the City Council this 6th day of September, 2016.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



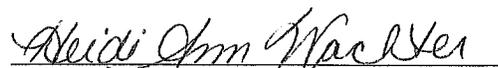
Don Anderson, Mayor

Attest:



Alice M. Bush, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:



Heidi A. Wachter City Attorney