

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

**SESSION LAW 2001-196  
HOUSE BILL 114**

AN ACT TO DESIGNATE U.S. HIGHWAY 70 IN NORTH CAROLINA AS THE  
"BLUE STAR MEMORIAL AND AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR  
HIGHWAY".

Whereas, many patriotic North Carolina citizens have served meritoriously in the armed forces of the United States of America in conflicts necessary to preserve the liberty and independence of this nation and to promote and project the democratic, freedom-loving values championed by this country; and

Whereas, some of these North Carolina soldiers suffered wounds, often with imminent danger to their lives and with grievous pain, while engaged in combat with and being held prisoner by the enemy; and

Whereas, in many cases, these soldiers continued heroic determination and effectiveness, while ignoring their intense physical pain and the constant threat to their lives; they staunchly refused to divulge information to aid the enemy; and

Whereas, the United States of America reserves a special combat decoration for these held prisoners of war, The Prisoner of War Medal; and

Whereas, many ex-prisoners of war have been awarded The Prisoner of War Medal for their sacrifice in service to America, their fellow citizens, their combat unit and their comrades, and in recognition of their personal suffering and their fierce determination never to capitulate; and

Whereas, North Carolina ex-prisoners of war should be remembered across this great State for their personal endurance without food, without heat, without the essentials of health, and without communication; and

Whereas, these courageous soldiers, who suffered great stress and hardship to their minds and bodies while rendering heroic service to their country, should also be specially honored for their patriotic valor in combat; and

Whereas, other states along United States Highway 70 have designated the highway within their borders as the "American Ex-Prisoners of War Highway"; and

Whereas, currently, United States Highway 70 within the borders of North Carolina is designated as the "Blue Star Memorial Highway" which pays tribute to those killed during World War II; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that this legislative body also recognize with the most profound gratitude the heroic, patriotic service of all North Carolina ex-prisoners of war across this great State; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 136-102.1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 136-102.1. Blue Star Memorial and American Ex-Prisoners of War Highway.**

~~All of the United States Highway #70, wherever located in North Carolina, shall, from enactment and ratification of this section, Carolina shall~~ be known and designated as the "Blue Star Memorial and American Ex-Prisoners of War Highway." The designation shall pay tribute to the many North Carolinians killed during World War II and to all North Carolina's ex-prisoners of war.

~~No State highway funds may be expended for the erection of signs designating the highway as provided in this section."~~

**SECTION 2.** The Department of Transportation shall, with the assistance of the Division of Veterans Affairs, design and place appropriate signage consistent with State and federal regulations near U.S. Highway 70 within the borders of North Carolina implementing Section 1 of this act.

**SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2001.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

s/ James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Approved 3:23 p.m. this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2001