



JOHN MURTHA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 29th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 103
Designating and marking STH 128 as the 128th Infantry Memorial Highway
Assembly Committee on Transportation
April 23, 2013**

Chairman Ripp and members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation.

Thank you for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 103, which would designate State Highway 128, with the majority in St. Croix County, the 128th Infantry Memorial Highway. This bill was written to honor the members of this Battalion who have served and continue to serve bravely to defend their state and nation.

The 128th Infantry Battalion has been active in our state for well over a hundred years. They have fought in almost every known war and defended our great nation including, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Berlin Crisis, the Cold War, and recently Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In each of these conflicts, the 128th Infantry Battalion has proven themselves to be true heroes and have received multiple honors. In World War I they earned the name "Les Terribles" in regards to their achievements in battle. In 2009, they received the Walter T. Kerwin Jr. Award for their readiness and training as the outstanding National Guard unit.

The 128th Infantry Battalion has not only fought in these wars, but has left their mark on history through self-sacrifice and valor. In World War II they fought in the Pacific for 654 continuous days of battle which is more than any other military unit in our nation's history. As a result of that event, eleven of those soldiers received the Medal of Honor. On one of their most successful missions, they raided and detained two of Saddam Hussein's codefendants, Abdulla Rwayid and Muzhir Abdulla Rwayid. Later these two men were convicted, along with Hussein, for crimes against humanity.

These soldiers have proven themselves time and time again to be true heroes and defenders of our nation. It is my firm belief that they deserve the honor and recognition this memorial highway would bestow.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to working with all of you on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

