



## REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER

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### REP NELSON LAUDS MEMORIAL FOR FALLEN SOLDIER

*BILL TO RENAME AREA BRIDGE FOR PRIVATE STEVEN DREES SIGNED INTO LAW*

MADISON – Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson (D-Kaukauna) commended Governor Jim Doyle for signing Assembly Bill 362 into law today. The legislation designates the US Highway 41 bridge over the Peshtigo River as the Steven Drees Memorial Bridge. Private Steven Drees, a Pestigo native, was killed in combat while serving in Afghanistan. Representative Nelson scheduled AB 362 for an Assembly vote in November.

“Private Drees had a tremendous impact on the lives of those around him,” said Representative Nelson. “After graduating from Peshtigo High School, Private Drees joined the Army and received numerous decorations for his brave and honorable service, including three Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.”

Private Drees deployed to Afghanistan on his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and served with the Fourth Infantry Division of Fort Carson, Colorado. As a gunner on a Humvee, he sustained a gunshot wound to the head. He died as a result of the injuries on June 24, 2009.

“According to his peers, Private Drees’s selfless and bold actions during the ambush saved the lives of his fellow soldiers. The loss of this courageous young man has left a deep void in Northeast Wisconsin,” said Representative Nelson. “Memorializing Private Drees’s life and service is a small token of our community’s gratitude to him and his family for their sacrifice.”

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