

Rep. Nygren: HOPE agenda and bill for local hero head to Governor's desk

Posted on Wednesday, Mar 21, 2018

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Madison–State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) released the following statement following action by the State Senate on bills he authored:

“I was very happy to see that Assembly Bill 699 passed the Senate with unanimous consent. This bill honors the legacy of Pfc. Valentine T. Warrichaiet, an Oconto, Wisconsin native who was killed in action during the Korean War by naming the Highway 41 bridge in Oconto in his memory.

“Vernon Warrichaiet, and Melvin Warrichaiet, brothers of Valentine T. Warrichaiet, and Clyde Bridger, a friend and classmate joined me at the public hearing to testify to the life of their brother and friend. Listening to their stories about Valentine was sobering. Pfc. Valentine T. Warrichaiet and many like him exemplify what it means to be called ‘the greatest generation’.”

“Additionally, I was pleased to see the Senate vote to approve the two most recent HOPE Agenda bills, Assembly Bills 906 and 907. These two bills strike a necessary balance law enforcement and justice with treatment and recovery. It is important that we punish those who seek to facilitate the flow of drugs into Wisconsin while at the same time get treatment to those who want and need it.”

Assembly Bills 906 and 907 include a variety of elements including funding for law-enforcement drug trafficking grants, funding for additional regional drug prosecutors, funding to create a medically assisted treatment pilot program,

reductions in regulatory barriers facing substance abuse counselors, and expanding access to buprenorphine.

“I would like to thank my Senate colleagues for their partnership and dedication to these important bills. The lives of many will be positively impacted by the action taken today. I look forward to seeing these bills signed into law by Governor Walker soon.”