2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1212

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1212
1/17/2025

Relating to designating a portion of state highway 18 as the PFC. Henry Gurke memorial highway; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

10:07 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

Discussion Topics:

- The life and service of Private First Class Henry Gurke

10:07 a.m. Representative Monson, District 19, introduced the bill and provided testimony #29762.

10:13 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

10:13 a.m. Representative Christianson moved a Do Pass.

10:13 a.m. Representative Johnston seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

10:14 a.m. Motion passed 14-0-0

10:14 a.m. Representative Hendrix will carry the bill.

10:14 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby adjourned the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1212 (25.0650.01000)

Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1212 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

Henry Gurke

MONSON
12/12

World War II - Fallen MoH

Neche, ND

County: Pembina

Date of Loss: 1943-11-09

Branch of Service: Marines

Rank: Private First Class

Company / Ship / Flight or equivalent:
3D Marine Raider Battalion

Medals and Honors:
Medal of Honor

Circumstances:

Private First Class Gurke, in company with another Marine, was delivering a fierce stream of fire against the main vanguard of the Japanese. Concluding from the increasing ferocity of grenade barrages that the enemy was determined to annihilate their small, 2-man foxhole, he resorted to a bold and desperate measure for holding out despite the torrential hail of shells.

Biography:

The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in
presenting the
Medal of Honor to

GURKE, HENRY
Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S.
Marine Corps.

Citation: For extraordinary heroism and courage above and beyond the call of duty while attached to the 3d Marine Raider Battalion during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands area on 9 November 1943. While his platoon was engaged in the defense of a vital road block near Empress Augusta Bay on Bougainville Island. Private First Class Gurke, in company with another Marine, was delivering a fierce stream of fire against the main vanguard of the Japanese. Concluding from the increasing ferocity of grenade barrages that the enemy was determined to annihilate their small, 2-man foxhole, he resorted to a bold and desperate measure for holding out despite the torrential hail of shells. When a Japanese grenade dropped squarely into the foxhole, Private First Class Gurke, mindful that his companion manned an automatic weapon of superior fire power and therefore could provide more effective resistance, thrust him roughly aside and flung his own body over the missile to smother the explosion. With unswerving devotion to duty and superb valor, Private First Class Gurke sacrificed himself in order that his comrade might live to carry on the fight. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

Biography: Born November 6, 1922 in Neche, North Dakota. Lived in Cavalier (Pembina County) ND until entering into the United States Marine Corps in Minneapolis, MN on April 15, 1942.

Served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater. Killed in Action November 9, 1943 on Bougainville Island, Just three days after his 21st birthday. Remains not recovered.

On February 15, 1945 a DD Type Destroyer was Launched. The DD type Destroyer was named the

USS GURKE in Private Gurke's honor. The Ship was sponsored by his mother Mrs. Julius Gurke.

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USS *Gurke*

USS *Gurke* (DD-783) was a *Gearing*-class destroyer of the United States Navy, in service from 1945 to 1976. She was transferred to Greece in 1977 and served as *Tombazis* (D 215) until 1997.

History

DD-783 was originally laid down as "John A. Bole", but that name was reassigned to the *John A. Bole* (DD-755). *Gurke* was named for United States Marine Corps Private Henry Gurke (1922–1943), who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. She was launched on 15 February 1945 by the Todd-Pacific Shipyards, Inc., Tacoma, Washington; sponsored by Mrs. Julius Gurke, mother of Private Gurke; and commissioned on 12 May 1945.

1945 – 1962

After shakedown along the West Coast, *Gurke* sailed for the Western Pacific on 27 August 1945, reaching Pearl Harbor on 2 September. From there she continued west to participate in the occupation of Japan and former Japanese possessions. Returning to her home port, San Diego, California, in February 1946, *Gurke* participated in training operations until 4 September 1947 when she sailed for another WesPac cruise. Two further WesPac cruises, alternating with operations out of San Diego and a cruise to Alaska in 1948 to aid in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Yukon gold rush, filled *Gurke*'s schedule until the outbreak of the Korean War.

History

United States

Name	USS *Gurke* (DD-783)
Namesake	Henry Gurke
Builder	Todd-Pacific Shipyards, Tacoma, Washington
Laid down	1 July 1944
Launched	15 February 1945
Commissioned	12 May 1945
Decommissioned	30 January 1976
Stricken	30 January 1976
Honors and awards	7 battle stars (Korea)
Fate	Transferred to Greece, 17 March 1977

History

Greece

Name	*Tombazis* (D215)
Namesake	Iakovos Tombazis
Acquired	17 March 1977
Commissioned	3 July 1977
Decommissioned	12 January 1997

Gurke departed San Diego on 5 August 1950 and arrived at Yokosuka, Japan on 19 August to screen fast carrier task forces off the west coast of Korea, from 25 August to 6 September. She shared with five other destroyers the award of the Navy Unit Commendation to Task Element 90.62 for extraordinary heroism in support of the landing at Inchon, 13–15 September 1950. Steaming up Flying Fish (So Sudo) Channel at high tide the first day, *Gurke* bombarded Wolmi-do island and the Inchon waterfront. Communist fire concentrated on three of the "sitting duck" destroyers, *Gurke* taking three hits that caused two wounded and minor damage. The destroyer's 5-inch batteries opened in a prelanding shore bombardment on 15 September 1950 until the first assault wave of Marines crossed the line of departure for Wolmi Do, which was secured by high noon. Wolmi Do was no longer a dominating threat over approaches into Inchon by landing assault craft that would be borne in on the incoming afternoon tide. After this initial landing General of the Army Douglas MacArthur made visual signal: "The Navy and Marines have never shone more brightly than this morning."

Stricken	12 January 1997
Status	laid up
General characteristics	
Class and type	*Gearing*-class destroyer
Displacement	3,460 long tons (3,516 t) full
Length	390 ft 6 in (119.02 m)
Beam	40 ft 10 in (12.45 m)
Draft	14 ft 4 in (4.37 m)
Propulsion	Geared turbines, 2 shafts, 60,000 shp (45 MW)
Speed	35 knots (65 km/h; 40 mph)
Range	4,500 nmi (8,300 km) at 20 kn (37 km/h; 23 mph)
Complement	336
Armament	6 × 5"/38 caliber guns 12 × 40 mm AA guns 11 × 20 mm AA guns 10 × 21 inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes 6 × depth charge projectors 2 × depth charge tracks

After the Inchon landings, *Gurke* screened fast attack carriers launching powerful strikes against enemy positions and supply lines. She also patrolled the narrow Formosa Straits to prevent Chinese Communist invasion of Formosa and to ensure that Formosa was not used as a base for military operations against the Chinese mainland. During the first year of war *Gurke* frequently served as flagship of Vice Admiral Arthur D. Struble and the 7th Fleet's Carrier Task Force 77 (TF 77).

Two interludes in the States for repairs and training interrupted *Gurke*'s Korean War service. But she continued, when deployed with the Seventh Fleet, to screen attack carriers and bombard enemy coastal supply routes and installations, once destroying a Communist train through accurate gunnery. She again drew fire from Communist shore batteries on 25 June 1953, but escaped without serious damage from two direct hits and the shrapnel of five air bursts.

When the shooting stopped in Korea in August 1953, *Gurke* continued patrols in the Far East to help keep the peace. Six- to eight-month deployments to the Western Pacific were alternated with stateside overhauls and training in a full peacetime routine. During 17–18 June 1960, she was a unit of the escort for cruiser *Saint Paul* (CA-73) carrying President Dwight D. Eisenhower on a fast Manila–Taiwan cruise. She also participated in nose cone recovery work as America's space effort rolled into high gear, facilitated by seapower.

In June 1962, *Gurke* participated in Operation Dominic I, a series of nuclear tests off Christmas Island.

1963 – 1975

Gurke commenced a Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM I) overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard 11 July 1963, with the refit completed on 1 May 1964.[1] The FRAM I conversion added a launcher for RUR-5 ASROC anti-submarine missiles, two Mark 32 triple tubes for Mark 44 anti-submarine torpedoes and a hangar and flight deck for the DASH drone helicopter, along with modern SQS-23 sonar. To compensate for these additions, the ship's 21 inch torpedo tubes, a twin 5 inch gun mount and all light anti aircraft guns were removed.[2] She arrived in her new home port of San Diego on 15 May for fleet operations along the western seaboard until 21 October when she again sailed for the Far East. She arrived in Yokosuka and joined the 7th Fleet on 16 November 1964 to begin her duties as a unit of Fast Carrier Task Force 77.

Gurke after her FRAM I-modernization.

The first day of 1965 found *Gurke* with Task Group 77.7 (TG 77.7) in the South China Sea. Long hours were spent on station, plane-guarding for attack carriers *Ranger* (CVA-61) and *Hancock* (CVA-19). As the Vietnam War became "hot" in late January she served as one of the escorts for an amphibious task group in the vicinity of Da Nang, South Vietnam. Long stretches at sea with fast carriers were punctuated by liberty calls at Subic Bay and Hong Kong. On 20 April 1965 the destroyer sailed in company with *Ranger* for return to San Diego, on 7 May 1965. The remainder of the year was filled with a rapid succession of coastwise training exercises ranging north to Seattle, which continued until she sailed for the western Pacific on 12 May 1966. After visiting Hawaii, Japan, and the Philippines, *Gurke* was stationed in the Gulf of Tonkin late in June for search and rescue duty. On 1 July three North Vietnamese PT boats were detected 11 miles (20 km) away from *Gurke* and three sister destroyers and closing at high speed. Fighter aircraft from *Constellation* (CV-64) intercepted the raiders and sank all three within minutes. The destroyers picked up 19 survivors for questioning.

While in the Gulf of Tonkin, *Gurke* refueled helicopters by a new in-flight refueling process enabling them to rescue American pilots downed in hostile territory.

After a brief respite in Hong Kong, Formosa, and the Philippines in August, *Gurke* resumed duty in the Gulf of Tonkin in September and set a record in completing 113 in-flight refuelings. On this assignment she bombarded Viet Cong positions in the Mekong and Saigon River deltas. After being relieved early in the fall, the destroyer returned home, via Okinawa and Japan, arriving San Diego on 16 November. In 1967, she operated along the West Coast and prepared for future action.

In November 1967 Gurke headed west again via Hawaii and Japan. She operated on Yankee Station, on search and rescue in the northern Gulf of Tonkin, and took part in the Formation Star effort in the Sea of Japan. Rushing south at the start of the 1968 Tet Offensive, she provided Naval Gunfire Support to the US Marines retaking Hue City. She then took some R&R in Hong Kong and

participated in Sea Dragon operations along the North Vietnamese Coast. She returned to San Diego in June 1968 after an eight-month West Pac deployment. In April 1975 she participated in the evacuation of Saigon known as Operation Frequent Wind.

1977 - 1997

Gurke was decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 30 January 1976,[3] and on 17 March 1977 she was transferred to Greece. On 20 March 1977 the ship was commissioned in the Hellenic Navy as ***Tombazis* (D 215)**,[4] the third ship named after Admiral Iakovos Tombazis.

Tombazis was fitted to serve as a flagship between 1980 and 1981, while the ship's armament was supplemented by the addition of an Otobreda 76 mm automatic gun on the helicopter deck and two twin launchers for Harpoon anti-ship missiles.[5] *Tombazis* was withdrawn from active use by 1994,[6] and stricken on 12 January 1997; as of January 1998, she was laid up in Souda Bay, Crete.[3]

Awards

Gurke received seven battle stars for service in the Korean War.

References

1. "*Gurke*" (http://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/g/gurke.html). *Dictionary of American Naval Ships*. Retrieved 17 January 2015.
2. Gardiner and Chumbley 1995, p. 594.
3. "USS GURKE (DD-783)" (http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/783.htm). *Navsource Naval History*. Retrieved 7 July 2012.
4. Moore 1985, p. 217.
5. Prézelin and Baker 1990, p. 216.
6. Gardiner and Chumbley 1995, p. 161.

- Gardiner, Robert and Stephen Chumbley. *Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships 1947–1995*. Annapolis, Maryland, USA: Naval Institute Press, 1995. ISBN 1-55750-132-7.
- Moore, John. *Jane's Fighting Ships 1985–86*. London: Jane's Yearbooks, 1985. ISBN 0-7106-0814-4.
- Prézelin, Bernard and A. D. Baker. *The Naval Institute Guide to Combat Fleets of the World 1990/1991*. Annapolis, Maryland, USA: Naval Institute Press, 1990. ISBN 0-87021-250-8.

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External links

- Photo gallery (http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/783.htm) of USS *Gurke* at NavSource Naval History

2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1212

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1212
2/21/2025

Relating to designating a portion of state highway 18 as the PFC. Henry Gurke memorial highway; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

10:12 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Background on PFC Henry Gurke
- Funding of road signs
- Length of highway being designated

10:12 a.m. Representative Monson, District 19, introduced HB 1212, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38308.

10:20 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

10:20 a.m. Jim Nelson, Legislative Director, North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council, testified neutral.

10:23 a.m. Wayde Swenson, Director of Operations, NDDOT, testified neutral.

10:27 a.m. Senator Klein moved a Do Pass.

10:28 a.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Chairman Clemens will carry the bill.

10:28 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1212 (25.0650.01000)

Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1212 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Henry Gurke

World War II - Fallen MoH

Neche, ND

County: Pembina

Date of Loss: 1943-11-09

Branch of Service: Marines

Rank: Private First Class

Company / Ship / Flight or equivalent:
3D Marine Raider Battalion

Medals and Honors:
Medal of Honor

Circumstances:

Private First Class Gurke, in company with another Marine, was delivering a fierce stream of fire against the main vanguard of the Japanese. Concluding from the increasing ferocity of grenade barrages that the enemy was determined to annihilate their small, 2-man foxhole, he resorted to a bold and desperate measure for holding out despite the torrential hail of shells.

Biography:

The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in
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Medal of Honor to

GURKE, HENRY
Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S.
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Citation: For extraordinary heroism and courage above and beyond the call of duty while attached to the 3d Marine Raider Battalion during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands area on 9 November 1943. While his platoon was engaged in the defense of a vital road block near Empress Augusta Bay on Bougainville Island. Private First Class Gurke, in company with another Marine, was delivering a fierce stream of fire against the main vanguard of the Japanese. Concluding from the increasing ferocity of grenade barrages that the enemy was determined to annihilate their small, 2-man foxhole, he resorted to a bold and desperate measure for holding out despite the torrential hail of shells. When a Japanese grenade dropped squarely into the foxhole, Private First Class Gurke, mindful that his companion manned an automatic weapon of superior fire power and therefore could provide more effective resistance, thrust him roughly aside and flung his own body over the missile to smother the explosion. With unswerving devotion to duty and superb valor, Private First Class Gurke sacrificed himself in order that his comrade might live to carry on the fight. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

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1977 - 1997

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Awards

Gurke received seven battle stars for service in the Korean War.

References

1. "*Gurke*" (http://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/g/gurke.html). *Dictionary of American Naval Ships*. Retrieved 17 January 2015.
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This article incorporates text from the public domain Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships. *The entry can be found here (http://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/g/gurke.html).*

External links

- Photo gallery (http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/783.htm) of USS *Gurke* at NavSource Naval History