

Senator Melcher,

I am writing you to express my support for bill SB5 which would rename a portion of Highway 69 in Overland Park, Kansas to "The 2LT Justin Lee Sisson Memorial Highway."

As you are probably aware, Second Lieutenant Justin Lee Sisson, a native of Overland Park, was killed in action on June 3rd, 2013 in Afghanistan.

Justin and I served as platoon leaders together in the same infantry company in Afghanistan on a football field sized outpost, situated only several kilometers away from the border of Pakistan. Our service together as peers was very coincidental as our fathers had been colleagues together several years prior. In the three months that I had the honor to be a peer of Justin's in a very rough environment, we grew to know each other very well. Justin was an exemplary leader who brought invaluable skills and expertise to the team, mostly learned from his prior deployment in Iraq. His character was one that fostered and emphasized cooperation, teamwork and integrity and had immediate respect, confidence and trust from everybody he worked with and knew in the unit.

Renaming the part of Highway 69 in Overland Park would be an outstanding and honorable dedication to Justin Sisson, to commemorate the values he lived for and upheld, and to his family and friends that he inspired and by whom he was dearly cared for and loved. I strongly urge the passing of SB5 and thank you for your support of the military, of military families and service to the people of Kansas.

Warm Regards,

David Rickert
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