

March 17, 2015

Kansas Senate Transportation Committee

Testimony in Support of HB 2103

Clay County Vietnam Veterans Bridge

My name is Harlan Max Smith. I am from Clay Center and I was one of the first marines to make a beach landing in Viet Nam in March of 1965. As a combat wounded Viet Nam Veteran, I am very proud to have served my country at that time.

I am concerned that our Viet Nam Vets are being forgotten and I believe that one way we can remember them is to get permanent markers where the public and Veterans will see them.

The Republican River Bridge is an ideal location due to the high volume of traffic using Highway 15 going north and south. Along with this is the fact that Highway 24, just a mile north, is the World War II Veterans Highway.

Over the past few weeks, I have spoken with several Clay County Viet Nam Veterans and they all agree, this would be a good location and should be done as soon as possible as we are losing many of our veterans of that era.

Several of the Veterans with whom I spoke said they will be willing to help pay for the signs.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Committee and I urge to you to consider HB 2103. And I thank Representative Swanson for introducing it.

I will be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.