

**State of Kansas
Senate Chambers**



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Elaine Bowers
36th District

Chairman Peterson and members of the Senate Transportation Committee

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of HB 2610. I am very pleased to support this bill which honors fellow Kansans - Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Carter, John Troy, Pete Hughes, Earl Seifert and Captain Chris Norgren. I would also like ask the committee to consider amending HB2610 to honor a Vietnam soldier and hero from Senate District #36. The requested amendment is to designate a portion of K-148 as the SGT LaVern W. Tegtmeier Memorial Highway in Washington County. Sgt Tegtmeier died November 6, 1969 in South Vietnam as the age of 22. He was the first Washington County soldier to die in the Vietnam War. A quote from a soldier on the *Face on the Wall* Website from Company A, 112th Infantry Division recalls LaVern Tegtmeier as this:

“I remember Sgt. Tegtmeier as being one hell of a fine soldier. I was in the country a little over a month when he died. What is not mentioned is that a soldier in front of Sgt. Tegtmeier froze, since it was single file on the steel beam. He tried crossing a board to help the soldier out and the board broke, as far as I’m concerned he died a hero.”

I think this sums up the type of man we are honoring today with this amendment request and HB2610. At this time, I would like to take a moment to introduce guests with us today from home:

Sgt. Tegtmeier’s brother: A.J. Tegtmeier

Sgt. Tegtmeier Hanover High School classmates: Dennis Schwartz, Don Martin and his wife Susan

Thank you again for allowing us to share Sgt. LaVern Tegtmeier’s story with you and for the opportunity to name a portion of K-148 as the SGT LaVern W. Tegtmeier Memorial Highway in north central Kansas.

I am available for questions at the appropriate time.

Senator Elaine Bowers
March 11, 2016

