

SUE BOLDRA
REPRESENTATIVE, 111TH DISTRICT
CAPITOL BUILDING
300 SW 10TH ST
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-4683
sue.boldra@house.ks.gov



TOPEKA
—
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HOME DISTRICT
2405 GENERAL CUSTER RD
HAYS, KS 67601
(785) 650-8952
sueboldra@gmail.com

Testimony concerning HB2610
relating to Fallen Veterans Interchange

March 11, 2016

Presented by Representative Sue Boldra, Dist. 111

Chairman Petersen and members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present support for HB 2610. The proposed legislation would designate the interchange of highway I-70 and Commerce Parkway in Ellis County as the “Chief Warrant 5 David Carter Memorial Interchange.”

In 2012, Senator Allen Schmidt was approached by supporters of TMP-Marion High School in Hays about the death of Bryan Nichols, a co-pilot of a helicopter that was shot down over Afghanistan, and a graduate of the Catholic high school. Senator Schmidt then authored a bill to have the interchange of I-70 and highway 183 dedicated as “CW2 Bryan J Nichols, Fallen Veterans Memorial Interchange.”

Just recently, it came to our attention that the pilot of that same helicopter was David R. Carter, a graduate of Hays High School and Fort Hays State University. Supporters again rallied to have another memorial erected, this time in Carter’s name.

Once the legislation is passed, we will begin the search for funding. I was contacted by a gentleman from Washington, D.C. that had picked up the article about Chief Warrant Officer Carter and our request for a memorial interchange

from a news service. Bill Thomas has a son with a website that raises money for the families of fallen heroes and Mr. Thomas offered his son's help. Will Thomas started his quest to help fallen heroes when he was 13 by shooting baskets. In one 3-day weekend he shot over 20,000 baskets. He has now graduated to 3-pointers! His website is www.ophawkeye.com, where you can also see the video of him shooting the baskets, and his interviews on local news shows.

Mr. Thomas has offered to help with funding once the legislation is passed. The cost estimate for the construction, installation and maintenance, provided by Eric Nichol, is \$15,750.

As a side note, at the time of his death, the veteran was known as Chief Warrant 4 David Carter. That was the information I had. However, once we began the process, we learned that he had been elevated to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 posthumously. That is the reason for the inaccuracy on the visual below. It will be corrected on the finished signs.

Thank you for your consideration. We don't do enough to thank our fallen heroes for their service. This is just another way that the Hays community and the people of Kansas can pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate price.

Thank you, again, for your time.. I will be glad to stand for questions.

