

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 12, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Ed Pugh

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Marian F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Stanley Dreher
Senator Stan Clark
Darrell Bencken, State Adjutant, VFW

Others attending: See attached list

HB 2603: Re highway designations - US-169 and US-83

Representative Stanley Dreher provided background information on designating part of US-169 as the Robert V. Talkington highway (Attachment 1). He stated it is anticipated that volunteer donations will be made to cover the cost of signage installation.

Senator Stan Clark advised members of the effort to have US-83 declared "Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Highway" from the Canadian to the Mexican border and asked for the Committee's support in so designating the Kansas portion of US-83," (Attachment 2).

Darrell Bencken, State Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars, wished to make it clear that this request is not for the VFW Organization, but for all veterans of foreign wars. The VFW will supply the money to cover the cost of signage installation. They would like to work further with Kansas Department of Transportation regarding suggested location of the signs. They prefer highway locations rather than roadside parks. The states of Texas, North Dakota, and South Dakota are in the process of working this legislation. It has already been enacted in Nebraska and Oklahoma. (No written testimony.)

Chairman announced proposed amendment to the bill which would require such signs not be placed until the KDOT secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the secretary for cost of placing such signs. Senator Schodorf moved to adopt the amendment. Senator Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Members discussed the bill. Senator Schodorf moved **HB 2603** be passed as amended. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SB 449: Concerning electronic certificates of title

Staff reviewed information presented at the February 6, 2002 hearing. Members were reminded that this deals with vehicles on which there are liens and that the notary requirement would no longer be required. When cars are "paid off" a paper title will be issued. County treasurers and lending institutions had also recommended passage of this legislation. Senator Goodwin moved **SB 449** be passed. Senator Schodorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes

Senator Gooch moved to approve minutes of the February 6 and February 7, 2002 meetings. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m. The next meeting will be February 14, 2002.

**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST
DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2002**

NAME	REPRESENTING
DARRELL BENCKEN	KANSAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
Rep. STAN DREHER	HB 2603
Christi Stewart	KS Motor Carriers Assoc.
GARY DAVENPORT	KS MOTOR CARRIERS ASSN
Sneila Walker	KDOR - DMV
Mathew Moser	KDOR - DMV
Diane Albert	KDOR - DMV

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. I am here to encourage you to act favorable on HB2603. Bob Talkington was the driving force in getting New US 169 constructed in our area. Senator Schmidt has introduced a companion Bill in the Senate.

Senator Bob Talkington's service in the Kansas Legislature spanned 20 years. Bob served 2 terms in the House of Representatives. He was elected to Senate in 1973 and served 3 terms. He served as Vice-President, Majority Leader and Senate President. Senator Talkington was a member of the Kansas Turnpike Authority from 1977-1993. He also was a member of the Kansas Board of Regents from 1995-99 and served as Chairman in 1997-98.

Senator Talkington is most deserving of this honor and would appreciate your support of HB2603.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE -DATE: 2-12-02
ATTACHMENT: /

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Robert V. Talkington was born near Patrick, Texas, and in January, 1949 received an Associate of Arts from Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas, before completing his education with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1951, and a Juris Doctor in 1954 from the University of Kansas. After service in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, Talkington opened his practice in Iola, Kansas, where he has a solo practice. He served as Allen County Attorney for six years, 31 years as City Attorney for the City of Moran, Kansas, and 30 years as City Attorney for the City of Gas, Kansas. He has served as attorney for Allen County Hospital and is author of "Hospital Medical Staff Law and By-Laws" published in the Washburn Law Review. He also serves as attorney for Allen County Community College. He has served on the Library Board and currently is Chairman of the Allen County Hospital's Foundation.

His service in the Kansas State Legislature spanned 20 years. In 1968 Talkington was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, where he served two terms before his first election to the Kansas Senate in 1973. He was elected Vice President of the Senate in 1977, Majority Leader in 1981, and Senate President in 1985. He served as chairman or vice-chairman of several joint legislative committees and served on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, as well as the Senate Judiciary Committee. While serving on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, he was on subcommittees reviewing budgets for Regents' universities, including Wichita State, University of Kansas Medical Center, Fort Hays State, Emporia State and Kansas State. He has been named to "Who's Who in American Politics" since 1967, "Who's Who In America" since 1968, and "Who's Who in the World" since 1982 and has received numerous public service awards. Talkington has also served as a member of the KTWU TV Producers' Club (Public TV).

Talkington has served as Allen County Republican Chairman and Treasurer of the Republican State Committee. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Delta Phi, Masons, Shriners, Elks, and the American Legion, and is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. Talkington and his wife, Donna, have five children and eight grandchildren.

Selected by Hallmark Political Action Committee as the 1983 Public Service Award Recipient for Kansas.

Selected for 1983 Distinguished Legislator Award by the Kansas Association of Community Colleges.

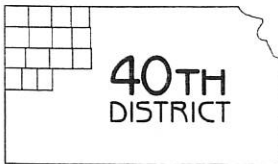
Selected for 1984 Citizen of the Year Award by the Iola Lions Club.

Leadership Award, 1988, Kansas Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Directors.

Selected by Tyler Junior College for Outstanding Public Service Award, TJC Alumni .
1998

Member Kansas Turnpike Authority, 1977-1985; 1989-1993, Vice Chairman 1989-1993

Member Kansas Board of Regents 1995 - 1999; Chairman 1997-98.



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: UTILITIES
MEMBER: ASSESSMENT & TAXATION
ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ORGANIZATIONS, CALENDAR, & RULES
RULES & REGULATIONS

Stan Clark

Testimony before the Senate Transportation Committee House Bill 2603 February 12, 2002

Chairman Donovan and members of the committee:

Last spring, Darrell Bencken, Quartermaster of the Kansas VFW, contacted me about receiving permission to erect signs along US-83 proclaiming "Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Highway."

I contacted KDOT, arranged a meeting and am enclosing KDOT's reply to their request (attachment 1). About 120 miles of US-83 is in my legislative district. This summer I was in Nebraska and took a picture of the sign that is a few miles north of McCook along the highway (attachment 2). The Nebraska sign is about 8 feet wide.

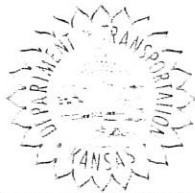
The VFW organization has agreed to supply the money to cover the costs of the signs. I know they think there are better locations for the signs than where KDOT suggested in their letter and I will let representatives from the VFW testify to that issue..

There is an effort to have US-83 declared "Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Highway" from the Canadian to the Mexican border and I hope this committee will lend their support.

Mr. Chairman, I will gladly answer questions.

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE -DATE: 2-12-02
ATTACHMENT: 2



**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION**

E. Dean Carlson
Secretary of Transportation

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Bill Graves
Governor

March 16, 2001

The Honorable Stan Clark
Senator, 40th District
State Capitol, Room 449-N
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Clark:

Thank you for taking the time to arrange the meeting between Nancy Bogina, Mike Crow, and Lee Roadifer, of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), with you and Darrell Bencken, Adjutant Quartermaster of the Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), to discuss the possible naming of US-83 through Kansas as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Highway. As you are aware, any naming of highways is up to the Kansas Legislature. The installation of signage relative to the named highway routes is dependent in part upon the language of the law adopted by the legislature, but also must be in compliance with the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD), which is the national standard for the installation of all traffic control devices on roadways open to public travel.

When signing for named memorial highways, KDOT follows the guidelines of the MUTCD, which states "...memorial names should neither appear on or along a highway or be placed on bridges or other highway components. The requirement for signing is best carried out by placing memorial plaques in rest areas, scenic overlooks, or other appropriate locations where parking is provided with the signing inconspicuously located relative to vehicle operations along the highway." It goes on to state that if there is no practicable location off of the main roadway, signing may be allowed on the highway, except the signing shall be limited to one sign at an appropriate location in each route direction.

In this case, we recommend that the memorials be placed in appropriate rest areas or roadside parks along US-83. This will allow more opportunity for interested motorists to observe the memorials and contemplate the enormous sacrifice our veterans have made for the betterment of our country. It is preferred that the costs associated with the installation of any memorials not be a burden to the taxpayers, and thus be funded by the proponents of the legislation. This also allows them the opportunity to furnish more aesthetically pleasing monuments that can pay a respectable tribute to our veterans. If KDOT must furnish the signs, they will be plain white on green signs simply stating "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY."

The Honorable Stan Clark
March 16, 2001
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During the meeting, KDOT staff indicated that although there are no rest areas, there should be some roadside parks along US-83 that would work well for the placement of the VFW memorials. More research was needed to determine the specific locations that would be acceptable. Since the meeting, we have checked out the possible locations and found two acceptable KDOT-owned facilities that should serve the purpose very well. They are roadside picnic areas located in the northeast and northwest quadrants of the south junction of US-83 and US-160 in Seward County, and another roadside picnic area located approximately midway between the cities of Gem and Rexford in Thomas County. During the meeting, a location in Scott County near the El Quartejejo Pueblo Ruins was identified as a possible location. Upon further review, we discovered that there is a historical marker there, but the parking area is little more than an extra wide shoulder and thus it does not meet the requirements of allowing adequate parking, nor does it allow the sign or memorial to be placed inconspicuous relative to highway traffic.

In addition to the two sites just mentioned, there is a city-owned rest area at the south edge of Oberlin in Decatur County. KDOT does not have the jurisdiction to install any signs in that rest area, but the VFW could investigate the possibility of getting approval from the city to install a memorial there.

On a final note, Bridge No. 008 located on US-83 in Seward County at Liberal has been designated as the Mike Hayden overpass bridge by K.S.A. 68-1049. I feel I should mention this in case you were not already aware, and so that you can take it into proper consideration.

If you have questions, please contact me at (785) 296-3461 or Lee Roadifer, State Traffic Signing Engineer, at (785) 296-3618.

Sincerely,



E. Dean Carlson
Secretary of Transportation

cc: Darrell F. Bencken, Adjutant Quartermaster,
Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars

A photograph of a paved road curving to the left. The road is bordered by tall green grass. A green sign on two black posts stands in the grass. The sign has white text that reads "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS" on the top line and "MEMORIAL HIGHWAY" on the bottom line. In the background, there are trees and a clear sky.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

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