

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Donovan at 8:30 A.M. on February 19, 2008 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Mary Jane Brueck, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer
Rep. Robert Olson
Rep. Jene Viekrey
Rep. Doug Gatewood
Chuck Yunker, American Legion
Sen. Mark Taddiken

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Donovan opened the hearing on **SB 523 – Designating part of Kansas highway 25 as the Great Plains Indian highway.**

Proponent:

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer spoke to the bill. This bill would officially designate a forty-three mile corridor of Kansas Highway 25 in Rawlins and Thomas counties extending from I-80 in Nebraska to I-70 on Kansas as the Great Plains Indian Highway. Maps distributed last meeting were used to show where that section of highway is located.. (Attachment 1)

Seeing no others to speak on the bill, Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **SB 523** and opened the hearing on **HB 2071 – Designating certain highways as memorial highways.**

Proponents:

Rep. Robert Olson said a bill was run a couple years ago similar to this on a Memorial Highway. At that time he asked Chuck Yunker what other highways had not been named as memorial highways for wars and came up with a list: Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War II, Korean War, Persian Gulf War, and War on Terrorism. There would be very little fiscal note to do this. There were some problems in the House because several members did not like “War on Terror”, so we decided to propose an amendment for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, to honor the two wars going on right now, in place of War on Terrorism. The amendment was distributed. (Attachment 2 and 3)

Rep. Jene Vickrey explained a House member lives on the highway in question of being named War on Terrorism and said he would not want to tell people he lives on the Terrorism Highway. Rep. Doug Gatewood submitted an amendment to make the name change, but it needed to be redrafted in order to pass the House. (Attachment 4)

Rep. Doug Gatewood expressed his feeling that we should not give recognition to terrorism through the names of our highways. He supports the amendment to change that name to be more specific in honoring our heroes. (Attachment 5)

Chuck Yunker, American Legion, also gave his approval of the bill. His written testimony requested a name change of the War on Terrorism highway, but prefers the amendment from Rep. Olson. Mr. Yunker asked for a second amendment to extend the existing World War I Veterans Memorial Highway to match that of the other wars in the bill which run between US 281 west to US 83. (Attachment 6)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 A.M. on February 19, 2008 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

Written testimony was sent to the committee from Sen. Mark Taddiken. Chairman Donovan explained Sen. Taddiken's testimony. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Donovan explained there is no fiscal note on this bill. The law on naming highways was changed several years ago. Now before KDOT does anything about writing and erecting signs, the cost of the signs has to be paid up front plus 50% additional for future maintenance.

Sen. Schmidt moved acceptance of Sen. Taddiken's amendment. Sen. Gilstrap seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Terry Heidner, Kansas Department of Transportation, expressed concern that the name Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom would fit on a highway marker. He said the KDOT has no objection to the renaming of these highways nor with the amendment to change the name War on Terrorism to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Rep. Olson said he would look into whether the name would fit on the highway marker, and, if not, would have a different proposal. There was discussion of the necessity to be sure the suggested name for the highway initially named War on Terrorism, be correct. Rep. Olson agreed to check with the Pentagon to see that the right names will be used. It was agreed to hold the amendment until next meeting.

Sen. Vicki Schmidt asked Mr. Yunker how many miles the extension he requested for the World War I highway would be and about any expense to doing that. There would be no expense because the American Legion would pay for any additional signs needed. Chairman Donovan asked Mr. Yunker to get with the Revisor before he leaves and show him, on a map, what is being talked about for this extension.

No others to speak on the consolidated name the highway bill, Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **HB 2071**.

No one was here to testify on **HB 2622**, a bill the Highway Patrol requested, so Chairman Donovan will schedule another meeting to take care of that.

Sen. Palmer moved passage of **SB 523**. Sen. Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sen. Ostmeyer will carry the bill on the floor. If he prefers not to, Chairman Donovan will do so.

Chairman Donovan asked for approval of the minutes of the February 12 meeting. Sen. Schmidt moved for approval of the minutes. Sen. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next meeting will be next Tuesday. At that time we will pick up **HB 2622** and go back to finish **HB 2071**.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10. a.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 26.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: Feb 19

NAME	REPRESENTING
Charles M Yunker	The American Legion
SEAN MILLER	CAPITOL STRATEGIES

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

RALPH OSTMEYER
SENATOR, 40TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 97
GRINNELL, KS 67738-0097

STATE CAPITOL
300 S.W. 10TH, ROOM 262-E
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1504
(785) 296-7399
ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE-CHAIR: NATURAL RESOURCES
MEMBER: AGRICULTURE
EDUCATION
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
JOINT COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES AND REGULATIONS

February 19, 2008

Chairman Donovan and members of your committee. Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today representing Rawlins and Thomas County Economic Development. These communities and communities in Southwest Nebraska are pursuing Kansas legislation to officially designate the 43 mile corridor of Kansas Highway, 25 in Rawlins and Thomas counties to Interstate 70 as the Great Plains Indian Highway. This designation would extend from I-80 in Nebraska to I-70 in Kansas when completed.

I've included a letter and map and would answer questions at the appropriate time.

Senator Ostmeyer

Senate Transportation
2-19-08
Attachment 1



Rawlins County Economic Development
112 S4th St
Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3640
roed@atwoodtv.net

The Great State of Kansas
c/o State Legislators
Topeka, KS

Monday, February 18, 2008

Dear Kansas Legislators:

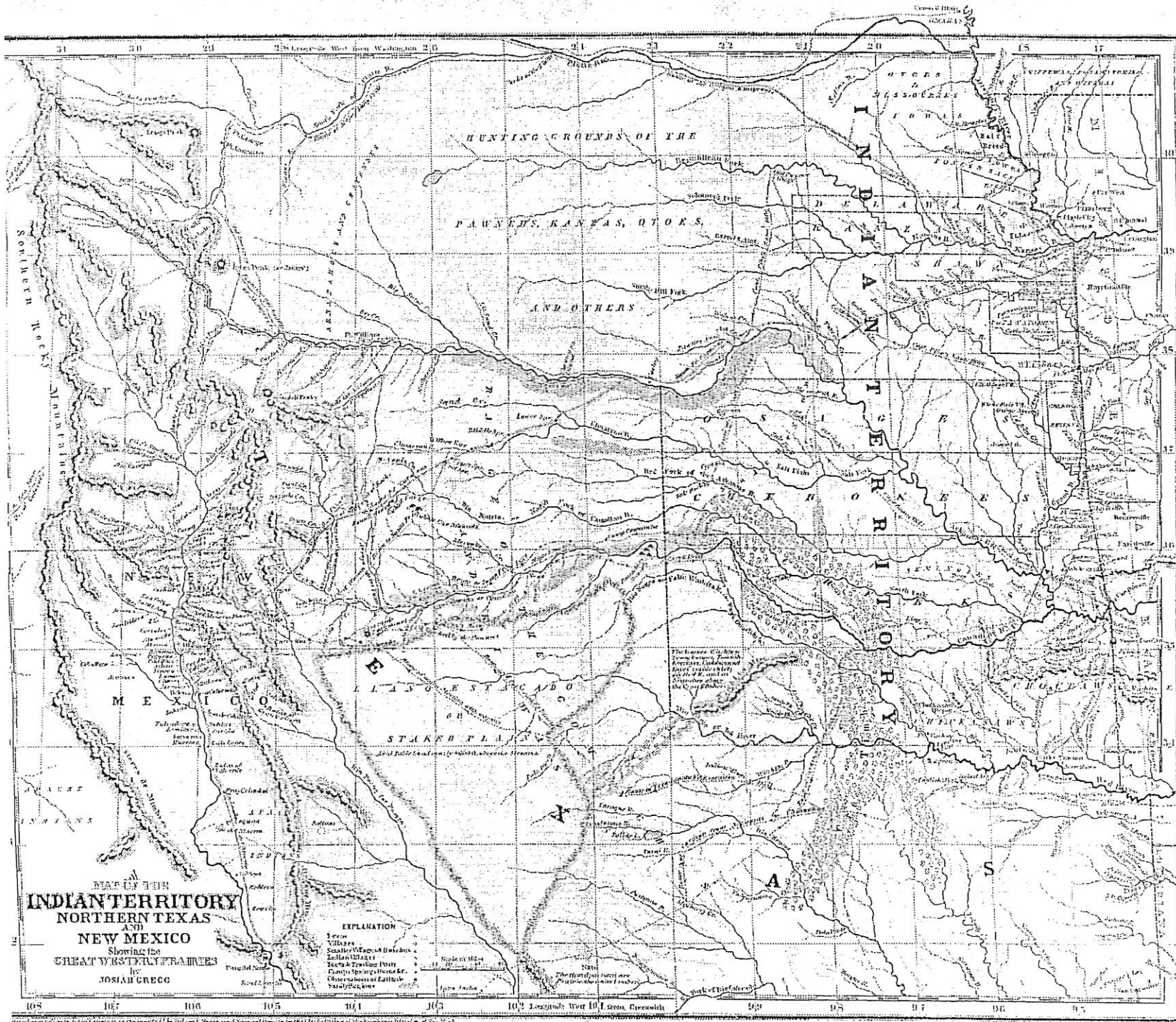
The Kansas - Nebraska Highway 25 Association, which is composed of business & members from northwest Kansas communities of Atwood and Colby and southwest Nebraska communities of Sutherland, Wallace, Hayes Center, Palisade and Trenton, have commissioned a committee to pursue Kansas legislation to officially designate the 43 mile corridor of Kansas Highway 25 in Thomas and Rawlins Counties as the Great Plains Indian Highway. This will match the 87 miles from the Kansas / Nebraska State Line north to I- 80 in Nebraska, which was designated as the Great Plains Indian Highway by the Nebraska Legislature in October 2004. This stretch of Highway 25 would take historians, visitors and travelers interested in the beauty of the land and native Indian people, through the heart of the Great Plains Indian buffalo hunting grounds (see attached Josiah Gregg's 1844 A Map of the Great Western Prairies Indian Territory). In addition, this route takes claim to being the shortest route between the two major Interstate Highways.

Our committee has done a great deal of research in visiting local historians and archivists. We have learned that Highway 25 intersects the Ladder of Rivers in northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska, which the Great Plains Indians followed in their south to north migration, is in direct correlation with the huge buffalo herds which once roamed the area. Historical archives found in each Community located on or near Highway 25 produced numerous sources and found that the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Pawnee, Sioux and Comanche Indian tribes, at one time or another for many centuries migrated or inhabited this area along the many rivers and creeks which Highway 25 intersects. Evidence of flint, stone tools, campsites, burial grounds and many other artifacts indicate that this particular segment of northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska is steeped deep in the unwritten history of the Great Plains Indians. It's believed that Sioux Chief Crazy Horse was born on the Republican River near the Kansas / Nebraska border and native northwest Kansans and southwest Nebraskans tell stories of locations in the Arikaree Breaks, Oak Canyon, Beaver, Driftwood and Sappa Creek Valleys where these great Indian tribes camped and hunted buffalo. Although we are unable to substitute these facts with history books or references, it is very evident that the 5 different tribes inhabited the Highway 25 area for centuries. The members of the Kansas - Nebraska Highway 25 Association feel that it would be appropriate to bring notice and give tribute to the Native American of the Great Plains and promote travel and tourism for northwest Kansas.

On behalf of the Association and Rawlins County Economic Development we would like you to consider our endeavor to name the above mentioned stretch of Kansas Highway 25 The Great Plains Indian Highway a noble one. We would greatly appreciate your support. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Chris Samek, Director
Rawlins County Economic Development
Vice President- Kansas Nebraska Highway 25 Association



Map of the Indian Territory, Northern Texas, and Northern New Mexico, in the Territory of the American Republics, by Josiah Gregg, New York, 1846.

1-3

STATE OF KANSAS

Rob Olson

REPRESENTATIVE, 26TH DISTRICT
19050 W. 161st St.
Olathe, Kansas 66062
State Capitol, 310-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-296-7632
email: olson@house.state.ks.us

Committee Assignments:

Vice Chair: Energy and Utilities
Member: Federal and State Affairs
Economic Development and Tourism
Jt. Committee on Special Claims
Against the State
Jt. Committee on Pensions,
Investments and Benefits

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
MAJORITY WHIP

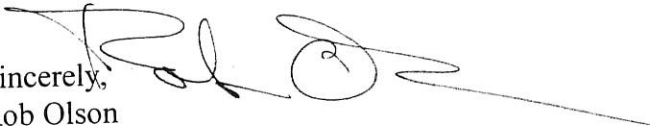
February 19, 2008
The Honorable Les Donovan
Senate Committee on Transportation
State House Room 527 South
Topeka, Kansas 66612

HB 2071

HB 2071 would designate certain portions of highways in Kansas as memorial highways. The bill would designate the portion of U.S. Highway 169 from the Southern boundary of Anderson County to the Southern City limits of Olathe as the Civil War Veterans Memorial Highway. The portion of U.S. Highway 160 from the Junction with U.S. Highway 83 west to the Kansas -Colorado border would be designated the Spanish-American War Veterans Memorial Highway. The portion of U.S. Highway 24 from the Junction with U.S. Highway 281 west to the Junction with U.S. highway 83 would be designated the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway. The portion of K-96 highway from the west city limits of Great Bend to the junction with U. S. Highway 83 would be designated the Persian Gulf War Veterans Memorial Highway. The Portion of K-156 Highway from the west city limits of Garden City would be designated the Persian Gulf War Veterans Memorial Highway.

We propose amending the bill to instead recognize both Operation Ending Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom more clearly define and show tribute to the men and women who are serving and whom have served in the "War on Terrorism."

Sincerely,
Rob Olson
State Representative
District 26



Senate Transportation
2-19-08
Attachment 2

[As Amended by House Committee of the Whole]

As Further Amended by House Committee

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2007

HOUSE BILL No. 2071

By Representatives Olson, George and Vickrey

1-16

14 AN ACT relating to highways; designating certain memorial highways;
15 ~~concerning the opening of certain roads; amending K.S.A. 68-~~
16 ~~115 and repealing the existing section.~~
17

18 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

19 **New Section 1.** That portion of United States highway 169 from the
20 southern boundary of Anderson county then north to the southern city
21 limits of the city of Olathe is hereby designated the Civil War veterans
22 memorial highway. The secretary of transportation shall place signs along
23 the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate that the highway
24 is the Civil War veterans memorial highway, except that such signs shall
25 not be placed until the secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts
26 and donations to reimburse the secretary for the cost of placing such signs
27 and an additional 50% of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or
28 replacement costs of such signs. The secretary of transportation may ac-
29 cept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing
30 suitable signs.

31 **New Sec. 2.** From the junction of United States highway 160 with
32 United States highway 83, then west on United States highway 160 to the
33 Kansas-Colorado border is hereby designated the Spanish-American war
34 veterans memorial highway. The secretary of transportation shall place
35 signs along the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate that
36 the highway is the Spanish-American war veterans memorial highway,
37 except that such signs shall not be placed until the secretary has received
38 sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the secretary for
39 the cost of placing such signs and an additional 50% of the initial cost to
40 defray future maintenance or replacement costs of such signs. The sec-
41 retary of transportation may accept and administer gifts and donations to
42 aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs.

43 **New Sec. 3.** From the junction of United States highway 24 with

2

Senate Transportation

2-19-08

Attachment 3

8-2

1 United States highway 281 then west on United States highway 24 to the
 2 junction of United States highway 24 with United States highway 83 is
 3 hereby designated the World War II veterans memorial highway. The
 4 secretary of transportation shall place signs along the highway right-of-
 5 way at proper intervals to indicate that the highway is the World War II
 6 veterans memorial highway, except that such signs shall not be placed
 7 until the secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations
 8 to reimburse the secretary for the cost of placing such signs and an ad-
 9 ditional 50% of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replace-
 10 ment costs of such signs. The secretary of transportation may accept and
 11 administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable
 12 signs.

13 **New Sec. 4.** From the junction of K-4 highway with United States
 14 highway 281 then west on K-4 highway to the junction of K-4 highway
 15 with United States highway 83 is hereby designated the Korean War vet-
 16 erans memorial highway. The secretary of transportation shall place signs
 17 along the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate that the
 18 highway is the Korean War veterans memorial highway, except that such
 19 signs shall not be placed until the secretary has received sufficient moneys
 20 from gifts and donations to reimburse the secretary for the cost of placing
 21 such signs and an additional 50% of the initial cost to defray future main-
 22 tenance or replacement costs of such signs. The secretary of transporta-
 23 tion may accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining
 24 and installing suitable signs.

25 **New Sec. 5.** K-96 highway from the west city limits of Great Bend
 26 then west on K-96 highway to the junction of K-96 highway and United
 27 States highway 83 is hereby designated the Persian Gulf War veterans
 28 memorial highway. The secretary of transportation shall place signs along
 29 the highway right-of-way at proper intervals to indicate that the highway
 30 is the Persian Gulf War veterans memorial highway, except that such signs
 31 shall not be placed until the secretary has received sufficient moneys from
 32 gifts and donations to reimburse the secretary for the cost of placing such
 33 signs and an additional 50% of the initial cost to defray future mainte-
 34 nance or replacement costs of such signs. The secretary of transportation
 35 may accept and administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and
 36 installing suitable signs.

37 **New Sec. 6.** K-156 highway from the west city limits of Larned then
 38 west on K-156 highway to the eastern city limits of Garden City is hereby
 39 designated the ~~War on Terrorism~~ veterans memorial highway. The sec-
 40 retary of transportation shall place signs along the highway right-of-way
 41 at proper intervals to indicate that the highway is the ~~War on Terrorism~~
 42 veterans memorial highway, except that such signs shall not be placed
 43 until the secretary has received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations

Operation Enduring Freedom and
 Operation Iraqi Freedom

1 to reimburse the secretary for the cost of placing such signs and an ad-
2 ditional 50% of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replace-
3 ment costs of such signs. The secretary of transportation may accept and
4 administer gifts and donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable
5 signs.

6 ~~Sec. 7.—K-53 highway is hereby designated the patriot guard highway.~~
7 ~~The secretary of transportation shall place signs along the highway right-~~
8 ~~of-way at proper intervals to indicate that the highway is the patriot guard~~
9 ~~highway, except that such signs shall not be placed until the secretary has~~
10 ~~received sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the~~
11 ~~secretary for the cost of placing such signs and an additional 50% of the~~
12 ~~initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of such~~
13 ~~signs. The secretary of transportation may accept and administer gifts and~~
14 ~~donations to aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs.~~

15 ~~Sec. 7.—K.S.A. 68-115 is hereby amended to read as follows: 68-~~
16 ~~115. (a) Except as provided by subsection (b), it shall be the duty~~
17 ~~of each and every county engineer to open or cause to be opened~~
18 ~~all state and county roads and of each and every township trustee~~
19 ~~to open or cause to be opened all mail routes and township roads~~
20 ~~which have been or may hereafter be laid out or established~~
21 ~~through any part of the respective county or township. Notice of~~
22 ~~such action shall be given to the owner or owners, or their agent~~
23 ~~or agents, if residing in the county, or, if such owner is incapacit-~~
24 ~~ated, to the guardian of such person, if a resident of the county,~~
25 ~~through whose inclosed or cultivated lands such road is laid out or~~
26 ~~established. Such notice shall direct such property owners to open~~
27 ~~such road through their lands within 90 days after service of such~~
28 ~~notice. If the person or persons so notified do not open such road~~
29 ~~within the time stated in such notice, it shall be lawful and it is~~
30 ~~hereby made the duty of such county engineer on state and county~~
31 ~~roads and of such trustee on township roads and mail route roads~~
32 ~~to respectively enter upon such property and open such roads. If~~
33 ~~such notice is given between the March 1, and October 1, the notice shall~~
34 ~~designate the next following January 1, as the time of opening such road.~~
35 ~~And the county engineer or township trustee respectively shall~~
36 ~~keep the same in repair, and remove or cause to be removed all~~
37 ~~obstructions that may be found therein. The township trustee and~~
38 ~~the county engineer are hereby authorized to enter upon any land~~
39 ~~near or adjoining such public road, to dig and carry away any~~
40 ~~gravel, sand, stone, clay, gypsum or any other road-building ma-~~
41 ~~terial and to purchase any timber which may be necessary to im-~~
42 ~~prove or repair the road, and to enter upon any land adjoining or~~
43 ~~lying near such road, to make such drains or ditches through the~~

STATE OF KANSAS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MIAMI COUNTY
502 S. COUNTRYSIDE DR.
LOUISBURG, KANSAS 66053
(913) 837.2585

STATEHOUSE-ROOM 121-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296.6014
EMAIL: Vickrey@house.state.ks.us



JENE VICKREY

6TH DISTRICT

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

VICE CHAIRMAN – HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CALENDAR & PRINTING
ELECTIONS & GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
INTERSTATE COOPERATION
TRANSPORTATION

February 19, 2008

Testimony of Representative Jene Vickrey

HB 2071-Designates portions of six highways as memorial highways

Our Transportation Committee has an extreme honor today in beginning the process to name portions of six highways as memorial highways.

HB 2951 designated part of U.S. 36 Highway as the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway, which passes through Smith Center, which was the home of the last World War I veteran.

It is right for us to remember the service of World War I Veterans as well as those who fought in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War II, the Korean War, the Persian Gulf War Veterans, and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Endearing Freedom.

A portion of U.S. Highway 169, from the southern boundary of Anderson Country, then north to the southern city limits of the City of Olathe, is to be designated as the Civil War Memorial Highway. The junction of U.S. Highway 160 with U.S. Highway 83, the west on U.S. 160 to the Kansas-Colorado border is to be designated the Spanish-American War Veterans Memorial Highway. The junction of U.S. Highway 24 with U.S. Highway 281, then west on U.S. Highway 24 to the junction of U.S. Highway 24 with U.S. Highway 83 is to be designated as the World War II Veterans Memorial Highway. From the Junction of K-4 Highway with U.S. Highway 281, the west on K-4 Highway to the junction of K-4 Highway with U.S. Highway 83 is to be designated the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway. The beginning of K-96 from the west city limits of Great Bend, then west on K-96 Highway to the junction of K-96 Highway and U.S. Highway 83 is to be designated as the Persian Gulf War Veterans Memorial Highway. The beginning of K-156 Highway from the west city limits of Larned, then west on K-156 to the eastern limits of Garden City as the War On Terrorism Veterans Memorial Highway.

The War On Terrorism Veterans Memorial Highway has been asked to be amended by Representative Gatewood. Representative Vickrey fully supports this amendment, which asks that The War On Terrorism Veterans Memorial Highway be instead called Operation Iraqi Freedom and Endearing Freedom Veterans Memorial Highway.

Many of us don't realize the sacrifice and service of men, women, and their relatives in preserving our democracy and our freedoms. Every generation since our country's founding, men and women have put their personal lives, hopes, and dreams aside as they answer the call to meet the challenge to defend our nation.

Senate Transportation

2-19-08

Attachment 4

My father, a World War II Veteran, always taught me that the freedoms in our country are paid for by our veterans.

World War I Veteran, Martin Walter Herrstrom, only shared his war record if asked. He was one of three who started the war in the U.S. Army 30th Infantry (Old Hickory) Division to be still on active duty at the end. When a shell went off close to him, his rifle was the only thing that showed and he was found before he died. When he came home at the end of the war, he lost one lung from the mustard gas used for years in the trench battles. The doctors had trouble keeping his other lung from building up fluid. He had to leave the Iowa cattle farm life he loved and move to Arizona for many years. He was proud to serve our country and never complained. His three sons served in the military. His oldest son served in World War II. Another son, Walter Herrstrom Jr., enlisted during the Korean War as a Marine and served under our country's most decorated soldier, Chesty Porter. Mr. Porter received 24 purple hearts. Walter Jr., as a machine gunner, took part in the battle of Pork Chop Hill. He was one of four left in his division at the end of the Korean War. Walter Sr.'s other son served in the Atomic Commission.

Only a few other provisions would be needed to be met to make this a reality. The Secretary of Transportation would need to:

- Place signs along the highways right-of-ways at the proper intervals to indicate the designations.
- Receive sufficient moneys from gifts and donations to reimburse the Secretary for the cost of placing the signs before erecting the signs.
- Charge the requesters of the signs an additional 50 percent of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of the signs.

The Secretary may accept and administer gifts and donation to aid in obtaining and installing suitable signs.

Representatives Olson and Vickrey appeared in support of the bill. No one testified in opposition to the bill. It was re-referred to the House of Transportation Committee. Subsequently, the Committee removed Section 7 of the bill which would have designated K-53 Highway as the Patriot Guard Highway.

The fiscal note prepared by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) indicates that two signs would need to be planned, manufactured, installed, and maintained for each designated memorial highway. The bill would require that the amount necessary for each set of signs and maintenance for these signs be collected before placement of the signs could occur. KDOT estimates that the total costs for the signs and their installation would be \$15,240. The additional 50 percent that would be needed for future maintenance would be \$7,620, making the total that would be needed to be collected before the signs could be erected as \$22,860. The fiscal impact resulting from the passage of the bill would be in addition to amounts included in *The FY2008 Governor's Budget Report*.

By naming portions of the six highways after all our war Veterans, we recognize the service and dedication of a generation who preserved our nation's freedoms.

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

DOUG GATEWOOD

REPRESENTATIVE, 1ST DISTRICT
HOME ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 306
COLUMBUS, KANSAS 66725
(620) 429-3690

OFFICE ADDRESS: STATE CAPITOL, RM 135-N
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7648

CHAIRMAN-SOUTHEAST KANSAS
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS
AGRICULTURE
RANKING MEMBER: AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES BUDGET
HOTLINE NUMBER: 1-800-432-3924
SPEECH/HEARING IMPAIRED: (785) 296-8430

February 19, 2008

Mr. Chairman and Committee members:

Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB 2071.

Mr. Chairman, I will be brief as I support the bill with the amendment offered by Representative Olsen.

I feel we should not give recognition by mentioning terrorists or terrorism on state highways. By amending this bill, we will recognize the brave men and women in specific battles, Operation Enduring Freedom, in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. All wars are wars of terrorism and I feel we should be more specific in honoring our heros.

Thank you for your consideration and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Senate Transportation
2-19-08
Attachment 5

HOUSE BILL NO. 2071
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 19, 2008
State Capitol Building
Room 527 (S)

Testimony by Charles M. Yunker
Department Adjutant
The American Legion Department of Kansas

The American Legion believes designating portions of highways within our state in honor of Kansas citizens who have served in our nation's armed forces during a period of war is a fitting tribute to those military veterans. As you may know, a number of individuals, units, and types of military service have been memorialized including a portion of Interstate 135, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway, and US 36 in Smith County, the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway. However veterans of our nation's other wars since Kansas joined the union have not been equally recognized, thus the purpose of House Bill 2071.

Attached to my testimony is a "Suggested Highway Dedications" page which basically corresponds with the provisions of HB 2071 with one exception I'll address later as a suggested amendment. In the notes at the bottom my suggestion page is the rationale used in selecting each of the highways named in HB 2071. For example US highway 169 was selected because it passes through the area where the last Civil War battle occurred in Kansas.

All of the other suggested memorializing highways contained in HB 2071 connect with either or both US 281 and US 83. Those highways have been designated The American Legion (US 281) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (US 83) highways; Kansas' two largest veterans' organizations which are the sources where the majority of funding for the signs identified in HB 2071 is expected to originate.

Senate Transportation
2-19-08
Attachment 6

Earlier I mentioned a suggested amendment. Actually I have two suggestions:

1) New Section 6, Lines 39 and 41 would designate a portion of K-156 as the "War on Terrorism Veterans Memorial Highway"; you might consider amending that portion of the bill to read "Global War on Terrorism Veterans Memorial Highway" because our current conflict is more often referred to as the Global War on Terrorism.

2) I would ask you to consider extending the existing World War I Veterans Memorial Highway, currently US 36 in Smith County, to match that of the other wars in the bill which run between US 281 west to US 83 thereby giving it equal recognition.

Again thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of House Bill 2071.

Suggested Highway Dedications

Civil War-----Highway 169 from the Anderson/Allen County line north to the city of Olathe.

Spanish-American War----US 160 from US 83 west to the Kansas-Colorado border.

World War I ---- US 36 from the Jewell/Smith County line west on 36 to the junction of US 36 and US 83.

World War II----US 24 from the junction of Highways 24 and US 281 west to the junction of Highways of US 24 and US 83.

Korean War----K-4 from the junction of K4 and US 281 west to the junction of K-4 and US 83.

Persian Gulf War----K 96 from the junction of K 96 and US 281 west to the junction of K 96 and US 83.

War on Terrorism----K156 from the junction of K156 and US 281 west to the junction of K 156 and US 83.

Note:

- 1) US 169 was selected for the Civil War because the last battle of that war in Kansas occurred in the area.
- 2) US 160 was selected for the Spanish-American War because of it connects to the VFW highway (US 83) and the VFW was founded by veterans of that war.
- 3) All other "War Memorial" highway were selected to connect US 281 and US 83 because they encompass the eligibility of members of the American Legion and VFW. (US 281 is the American Legion Highway, and US 83 is the VFW Highway).



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

MARK W. TADDIKEN
SENATOR, 21ST DISTRICT
CLAY, CLOUD, JEWELL,
MARSHALL, NEMAHA, REPUBLIC, RILEY,
AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES
2614 HACKBERRY RD.
CLIFTON, KS 66937
(785) 926-3325

STATEHOUSE—ROOM 222-E
TOPEKA, KS 66612
(785) 296-7371 FAX 296-6718
taddiken@senate.state.ks.us

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIR: AGRICULTURE
MEMBER: NATURAL RESOURCES
UTILITIES
WAYS & MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL
CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL
PLANNING

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2071

February 19, 2008

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Senator Mark Taddiken

Mr. Chairman and Committee members,

Please accept my profound apology for not being with you in person today. At the present moment I am chairing the Ag Committee, working a bill that requires my presence.

Late yesterday, I was informed of the desire of some of my constituents to designate a longer portion of Highway 24 as the World War II veteran's memorial highway. There are several veteran's groups that are willing to raise the funds necessary to purchase the signs and would appreciate the recognition the highway would bring to the service of their members in World War II.

I respectfully request that the Committee amend section 3 of House Bill 2071 to extend the eastern boundary of the designation to the junction of Highway 24 and Highway 77. I believe the change in the bill would be on page 2, line 1, by striking the number 281 and inserting the number 77. As always, I will defer the exact wording to the wisdom of your Committee.

Thank you for the consideration of my request.

Senate Transportation

2-19-08

Attachment 7