

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Donovan at 8:30 A.M. on March 7, 2006 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Anthony Hensley- excused
Vicki Schmidt - excused

Committee staff present:
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisors of Statutes
Maggie Breen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Representative Carl Krehbiel
Representative Dan Johnson
Representative Tim Owens
Representative Ed O'Malley
Representative Robert Olson
Representative Jene Vickrey

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Donovan opened the hearing on **HB 2705** - Designating a part of interstate 135 as the Vietnam war veterans memorial highway.

Representative Carl Krehbiel said **HB 2705** designates that portion of I-135 in McPherson and Harvey Counties as the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Highway. Not much needs to be said. It's overdue that the state of Kansas extends this recognition to our Kansas veterans of the Vietnam War. The bill came out of the House Transportation Committee, was placed on the consent calendar, and passed the house by a vote of 122 to 0. (Attachment 1)

Representative Dan Johnson said he agrees with Representative Krehbiel. As a retired Army Officer, who trained many of the young men who went to Vietnam, he thinks it's long overdue that we recognize them with an appropriate recognition. (No handout)

Representative Tim Owens said as a Vietnam veteran, and also the son and brother of Vietnam veterans, he strongly supports this bill. His father is buried in Newton, Kansas in Harvey County. He thinks it's a fitting tribute to all the Kansans who served in Vietnam and would certainly appreciate the committee's support. (No handout)

Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **HB 2705** and opened the hearing on:

HB 2758 - Designating a part of K-177 and U.S. 24 highways as Coach Bill Snyder highway.

Representative Ed O'Malley said **HB 2758** is not nearly as important as the bill that was just heard and the bill that will be heard next, but he hopes the committee will look favorably on it as well. This bill honors Coach Bill Snyder who was a great Kansas and has done a lot for the state of Kansas and for Kansas State University. In the House's opinion, a small way for us to show our gratitude to him is to rename portions of K-177 Highway after him. Basically, it's a 9 mile stretch from I-70 to the city of Manhattan. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **HB 2758** and opened the hearing on:

HB 2951 - Designating part of US 36 highway as the World War I veterans memorial highway.

Representative Robert Olson said the bill originated when they were hearing the bill for the Vietnam Veterans

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 A.M. on March 7, 2006 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

Memorial Highway. Some of the testimony said that World War I has not been done. He and Representative Jene Vickrey started working on it and expedited the bill. There is one World War I veteran in the state of Kansas and he is 106 and a half. Time is of the essence. He lives in Smith County and the portion of highway they are designating as World War I Veterans Memorial Highway is in Smith County. They are doing so to honor his life and his service to his country. It is also to honor the rest of the people who served in World War I. These people fought and died so that we'd have the freedom to be here today and this is a great tribute we can make to honor them. (Attachment 3)

Representative Jene Vickrey said the bill is personal to him. He knows Walt Herrstrom, Sr. Walt only talks about his war record if asked about it. He was in an infantry division called Old Hickory, called that for their toughness. He was in war the most consecutive days of any infantry division at that time. He is one of only three that survived that division. He lost an eye when a shell went off close to him and the only way they found him before he died was that his rifle was showing. He lost his left lung and had to give up his life dream of being a cattle farmer in Iowa. He ended up going to Arizona for years. He did regain his health enough to come to Kansas and raise cattle here. We need to honor all of our World War I Veterans. Mary Pilcher-Cook placed an amendment on the bill for a section of the highway to recognize those war veterans that served in submarine duty. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Donovan closed the hearing on **HB 2951** and said the committee would discuss **SB 456- Open records; disclosure of certain records pertaining to drivers of motor vehicles transporting members of the public.**

Hank Avila distributed handouts of what he'd found on background checks being done on bus drivers in other states. (Attachments 5, 6 & 7)

Chairman Donovan asked if the information applied only to school bus drivers or to anyone who transports over a certain number of people. Hank said Missouri law also includes cooks, custodians, secretaries, para-professionals, and nurses. He said that he did find out that the discussion is going towards including the background requirement within the contract. Wisconsin passed a law recently where they exempted the private contracts but the new contracts would not be exempt. He thinks Illinois is considering doing the same thing.

Chairman Donovan asked the committee to read the contracts before the committee met again.

There was a discussion regarding the drivers of minibuses and other vehicles that transports the handicapped and elderly and what their requirements are.

Senator Wilson made a motion to move **HB 2705, HB 2758 and HB 2951** out favorably and put on the consent calendar. Senator Gilstrap seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Donovan requested approval of the committee minutes of February 7, February 9, and February 21

Senator Gilstrap made a motion to approve the committee minutes as written. Senator Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2006.