STATE OF KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HB 2722

March 16, 2016

Chairman Proehl and Committee Members:

I appear today in support of <u>HB 2722</u>. <u>HB2722</u> designates the portion of K-148 from the intersection with 23rd road in Washington County, then north to the Nebraska state line as the **Sgt Lavern W. Tegtmeier memorial highway**.

Sgt. Tegtmeier died November 6, 1969, in Bihn Dihn, South Vietnam; he was 22 years old. He was the brother of Arien Tegtmeier of Hanover, and the son of the late John and Martha Tegtmeier. He was the first Washington countian to die in the Vietnam War.

Tegtmeier was in the Army and had attained the rank of SSGT/E6. He began his tour of duty on March 4, 1969. He drowned while crossing a river, single file, crawling across on a steel beam. It is reported that a soldier in front of him "froze". Sgt. Tegtmeier tried crossing a board to help the soldier out and the board broke causing him to fall into the river.

Sgt Tegtmeier was a graduate of Hanover High School. He attended Fairbury Junior College for one year when he was drafted into the service becoming a member of the US Army, A Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

Prior to the signs being placed, sufficient funds from gifts and donations will be presented to the State for the cost of placing the signs plus an additional 50% of the initial cost to defray future maintenance or replacement costs of such signs.

I ask for your support of **HB2722**.

Rep. Sharon Schwartz, 106th District