

State of Kansas
Senate Chamber

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Chairman Proehl, Vice Chair Thimesch, Ranking Minority Member Helgerson and members of the Committee.

HB No. 2221 An Act concerning roads and highways; designating a bridge on US highway 77 as the SGT Kevin A. Gilbertson memorial bridge.

SGT Kevin Gilbertson served in the US Army 1st Infantry Division stationed in Iraq. The US Army 1st Infantry Division is also known as "The Big Red One". Their Motto: No Mission Too Difficult. No Sacrifice Too Great. Duty First!

SGT Gilbertson paid the ultimate sacrifice serving in Iraq on August 31, 2007. To keep his memory alive, his Gold Star Family, Mr. and Mrs. Randy Frank reached out to request their son 's name be added to the Bridges for the Fallen. This organization works with Gold Star Families to honor fallen heroes and their families by bringing to light their selfless service and sacrifice to our country and ensure their legacy is never forgotten.

"The bridge is a symbol of strength, honor and respect and it becomes part of the families/fallen warrior's legacy and history. The bridge will pass the torch onto countless generations and show them who the fallen warrior was and their sacrifice to our nation." The bridge is a mechanism of healing. It will serve as a reminder of not only SGT. Gilbertson's sacrifice but of all our nations heroes that have given so much for their country.

The South Summit Bridge over the Arkansas River serves as the last bridge leaving Kansas into Oklahoma and the first bridge entering Kansas on US Highway 77 from Oklahoma, which is already a Blue Star Highway.

This bill requests the South Summit Bridge on US Highway 77, Cowley County, Kansas be designated as the SGT Kevin A. Gilbertson memorial bridge. Thank you for allowing this bill a hearing.

Senator Larry Alley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Alley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Senate Dist. 32, Winfield, KS.