

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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BILL PANBACKER
106TH DISTRICT

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

HB No. 2502 An Act concerning roads and highways; designating a portion of United States Highway 77 as the Cpl. Allen E. Oatney and SP4 Gene A. Myers Memorial highway; amending K.S.A. 68-1022 and repealing the existing section.

I am here as a proponent of naming a section of United States Highway 77 from the eastern city limits of Blue Rapids then west to the junction of United States Highway 77 with K-9 in Waterville in Marshall County as the Cpl. Allen E. Oatney and SP4 Gene A. Myers Memorial Highway.

Corporal Oatney and SP4 Myers exemplified the unique characteristics of courage and devotion to country so common in our towns. We want to make sure that they are not forgotten. In recognition of their gold star families and in honor and respect for these two American heroes, the two communities have banded together in the renaming of this section of highway. In support of this effort, both Roger Edwards, Commander of American Legion Post 169, and Commander John Arganbright of American Legion Post 332 have shouldered the task of funding the memorial signs.

Although I did not personally know either Cpl. Oatney or SP4 Myers, they were peers of mine in the same school League. I think I even competed against them in sports.

The section of highway to be dedicated to their memory goes past the Valley Heights High School which is located between the communities of Blue Rapids and Waterville. In addition to being a remembrance to those who knew them, naming this a memorial highway will be a daily reminder to those growing up and

living in the area that these two native sons knew what it meant to serve, and gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community and country.

It is only fitting that this stretch of road be memorialized in their honor.

Representative Bill Pannbacker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W E Pannbacker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

House of Representatives District 106
Washington, Kansas