

HB2132

My name is Don Kotapish from Blue Rapids, KS.

First, I want to thank all for being here today. And a special thanks to Suzi Carlson for getting this meeting together for us all here today.

We are here today to discuss the possibility of a memorial for a fallen soldier, Loren Larson killed in Vietnam on June 20th, 1969.

I myself am a Vietnam vet having fought in The Battle of Hamburger Hill where we lost 58 soldiers. That battle lasted for over 10 days in May 1969.

I am here speaking for Loren's brother, Larry who asked me to speak for him today. Loren gave the ultimate sacrifice for this country and fought in a war that was thankless and not one Vet was ever thanked, but instead spit on as I was when returning home at the San Francisco airport.

So, Larry Larson and Loren's friends are asking for your consideration of a memorial bridge for him by renaming the Fancy Creek Bridge north of Randolph, KS, after him. Loren graduated from Blue Valley High School 2 miles south.

You have done this for several other fallen soldiers in Marshall County. In Blue Rapids, Marysville, Frankfort, Hanover and now working on two from Waterville.

Your consideration would be greatly appreciated. If you could have been there and endured what I did and those who gave it all, there would be no question as to what you would do.

Thanks again for your consideration,

Don Kotapish

Blue Rapids, KS