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Members of the Senate Transportation Committee--

As someone who stands in support of our veterans, our Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) and First Responders as they come home to their final resting place, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 131.

I have been a proud member of the Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) of Kansas since 2008 and I have ridden roughly 300+ funeral missions.

Based on my experiences as a Ride Captain, I have to tell you there have been way too many instances of our riders having close calls when escorting a funeral procession. I have almost been broadsided by motor vehicles on a least three occasions. This bill could do something to ensure the safety of those of us who are out there on a continual basis honoring our Veterans during their funeral processions.

While some may not realize the importance of recognizing funeral processions in statue, it is actually a small change that means a lot to citizens like me. Especially in Leavenworth, KS where we have two National Cemeteries and several private cemeteries where we proceed to on a regular basis, oft times without the benefit of a Law Enforcement escort. And without that escort, our lives are put at more risk when we have to complete the escort on our own.

I urge you all to consider the early passage of this bill. It is extremely important for the safety and security of those of us who are out there on a daily basis honoring our Veterans.

Thank you,

**Ronald M. Wurtele**

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**Patriot Guard Riders of Kansas**

**Ride Captain**