

Testimony presented to the Kansas Senate Transportation Committee concerning SB309, designating a portion of United States highway 69 as the AMM2c Walter Scott Brown memorial highway. February 16, 2022.

Aviation Machinists' Mate 2nd class Walter Scott Brown was from Pleasanton, KS and enlisted in the Navy on January 9, 1940. Assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 24 on October 9th, Brown advanced to the rank of aviation machinists' mate 2nd class on November 1, 1941. He worked on PBY Catalinas patrol planes (seaplanes) at Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, Hawaii. On the morning of December 7, 1941, the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor and several other military bases on Oahu, including Kaneohe Bay. Without regard for his own life, Brown, who was trained to fly the Catalinas got into a plane and was killed as the Japanese attack planes strafed the base. Brown was commended by the Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet for his selfless bravery.

Walter Scott Brown is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

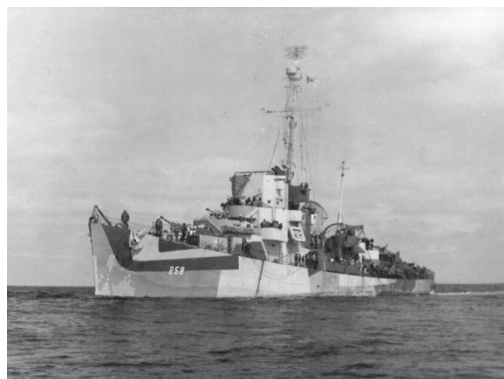
In his honor, the Navy destroyer escort ship, Walter S Brown (DE-258) was laid down on 10 January 1943. For the remainder of the war in Europe, Walter S Brown continued to escort convoys on round trips from the east coast of the United States to North African ports.

I firmly believe that since the United States Navy recognized this hero from Kansas for his bravery and sacrifice by naming a ship in his name, it would be fitting for his home state recognize his bravery and sacrifice by naming a portion of US Highway 69 in his home county in his honor as well.

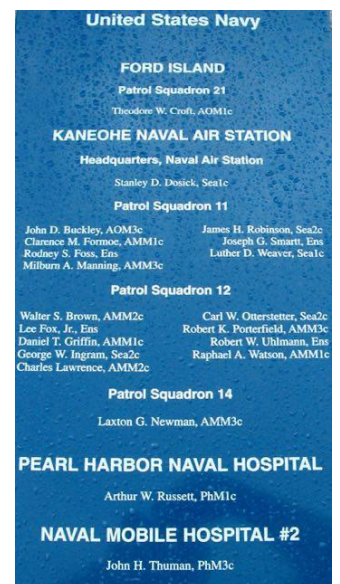
Kevin Barnes
Yates Center, KS



Walter Scott Brown



Walter S Brown (DE-258)



Plaque at Pearl Harbor
Visitors Center