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BILL RHILEY
80TH HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony in support of House Bill 2478
Presented to Senate Transportation Committee
March 8, 2022

Chairman Petersen and Members of the Committee:

I ask that you please support HB 2478. This bill would designate the portion of US-166 to US-81 in Sumner County, then East to the western city limits of Arkansas City, in Cowley County, as the SGT Evan S Parker Memorial Highway.

SGT Parker was born in Wichita and raised in South Haven. SGT Parker enlisted in the U.S. Army, deployed to Iraq in 2004, and died in 2005 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Parker received several meritorious awards, including two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star.

Sergeant Parker was awarded his first Purple Heart in May 2005 for head trauma caused by a roadside IED attack. Sergeant Parker was promoted to Sergeant in July 2005. Sergeant Parker was two weeks away from finishing his 11-month deployment when he again suffered head trauma from another roadside IED attack on October 23, 2005, and was flown to Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany and removed from life support on October 26, 2005, surrounded by his family.

Sergeant Parker received the Bronze Star, second merit, the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal presented by two of his commanders. Sergeant Parker received the Hawaii Medal of Honor in 2006. Sergeant Parker was honored by the Fort Shafter Flats Army Reserve 25th Infantry Division in Honolulu, Hawaii, when they dedicated the "Sgt. Evan S. Parker

Pavilion". Sergeant Parker is listed honorably in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry "GO FOR BROKE" Hall of Fame in Honolulu, Hawaii. Sergeant Parker was highly decorated in the United States Army throughout his military career as a Fire Support Specialist, is defined as a hero and sacrificed his life to protect our freedom and the principles of democracy.

You can learn more about SGT Parker at goldstarfamilyregistry.com.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

State Representative Bill Rhiley

Kansas House of

Representatives 80th District

