

HOUSE BILL No. 2478

By Representative Rhiley

1-12

1 AN ACT concerning roads and highways; designating a portion of United
2 States highway 166 as the SGT Evan S Parker memorial highway;
3 ***designating a portion of U.S. highway 56 as the PFC Shane Austin***
4 ***memorial highway.***
5

6 WHEREAS, Sergeant Evan S. Parker was born at Wesley Medical
7 Center in Wichita, Kansas, on May 1, 1980; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker attended South Haven USD 509 public
9 schools from kindergarten through high school and graduated as a South
10 Haven Cardinal in 1998; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker attended Cowley County Community
12 College in Arkansas City, Kansas; and

13 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker joined the United States Army from
14 Arkansas City, Kansas, and went to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in
15 Missouri; and

16 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker graduated basic training with Delta
17 Company 3rd Battalion 10th Infantry and his first assignment was at Fort
18 Sill in Oklahoma as a Fire Support Specialist; and

19 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker was then assigned a permanent duty
20 station at Schofield Barracks in Honolulu, Hawaii, as part of the proud
21 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry and 29th Brigade Combat Team, whose
22 motto is "GO FOR BROKE"; and

23 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker was deployed to Iraq in October 2004 to
24 Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

25 WHEREAS; Sergeant Parker was awarded his first Purple Heart in
26 May 2005 for head trauma caused by a roadside IED attack; and

27 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker was promoted to Sergeant in July 2005;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker was two weeks away from finishing his
30 11-month deployment when he again suffered head trauma from another
31 roadside IED attack on October 23, 2005, and was flown to Landstuhl
32 Army Medical Center in Germany and removed from life support on
33 October 26, 2005, surrounded by his family; and

34 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker received the Bronze Star, second merit,
35 the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal presented by two of his
36 commanders; and

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker received the Hawaii Medal of Honor in
2 2006; and

3 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker was honored by the Fort Shafter Flats
4 Army Reserve 25th Infantry Division in Honolulu, Hawaii, when they
5 dedicated the "Sgt. Evan S. Parker Pavilion" in 2008; and

6 WHEREAS, Sergeant Parker is listed honorably in the 100th Battalion,
7 442nd Infantry "GO FOR BROKE" Hall of Fame in Honolulu, Hawaii; and

8 WHEREAS; Sergeant Parker was highly decorated in the United States
9 Army throughout his military career as a Fire Support Specialist, is
10 defined as a hero and sacrificed his life to protect our freedom and the
11 principles of democracy;

12 Now, therefore:

13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

14 Section 1. The portion of United States highway 166 from the
15 junction of United States highway 166 with United States highway 81 in
16 Sumner county then east to the western city limits of Arkansas City,
17 Kansas, in Cowley county is hereby designated as the SGT Evan S Parker
18 memorial highway. Upon compliance with K.S.A. 68-10,114, and
19 amendments thereto, the secretary of transportation shall place suitable
20 signs to indicate that the highway is the SGT Evan S Parker memorial
21 highway.

22 *Sec. 2. The portion of United States highway 56 from the*
23 *northeastern city limits of Edgerton in Johnson county, then northeast*
24 *to the southwestern city limits of Gardner in Johnson county is hereby*
25 *designated as the PFC Shane Austin memorial highway. Upon*
26 *compliance with K.S.A. 68-10,114, and amendments thereto, the*
27 *secretary of transportation shall place suitable signs to indicate that the*
28 *highway is the PFC Shane Austin memorial highway.*

29 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
30 publication in the statute book.