



The Honorable Bill Rhiley
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612
Bill.rhiley@house.ks.gov

January 28, 2024

Dear Representative Rhiley,

This letter is in regards to SrA Derek Martin who served in the United States Air Force. Derek was happiest being with his military brothers and sisters. He was a decorated war veteran and recipient of the prestigious Purple Heart. Combat leaves the deepest wounds and scars; Derek was one of our PTSD casualties. Derek's bucket list included a visit to Navy Seal Matthew Axelson's grave (Lone Survivor). Derek received this high honor because he was in the same kind of battle. It is said you can take the soldier out of the war, but you cannot take the war out of the soldier.

In May 2023, Operation Creekside, along with 22 Too Many, built a custom designed Memorial bench in honor of Derek and delivered it to Derek's mother, the only physical place she had for remembrance and reflection.

I, Joseph Goetz and wife, Carole, wholeheartedly believe SrA Derek Martin is well deserving to have a memorial bridge named in his honor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joseph and Carole Goetz

Joseph and Carole Goetz
Operation Creekside

CC: Deb Paschall
Deb.paschall@house.ks.gov