Jim Deister, VVA Kansas State council POW/MIA Chair Sent by: Roland Mayhew, February 3rd, 2025

Written Testimony for HB 2124 Proponent



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 809

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Kansas Legislative Committee on Transportation

It has come to the attention of the Kansas State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America that there is a hearing regarding designating a portion of US Highway 77 as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway and designating bridge #82-14-6.88(026) in Clay county as the POW/MIA memorial bridge. The Kansas Vietnam Veterans of America support these resolutions wholeheartedly. The Vietnam Veterans of America has supported the POW/MIA issue since inception in 1978. VVA nation wide has 92,429 members, Kansas has a total of 663 members and 56 Associates of Vietnam Veteran members.

There are still 73,677 still missing from WWII, 7,500 from Korea, 1,573 from the Vietnam War, 126 from the Cold War, and 6 from our recent wars in Libya, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting agency works very diligently to Identify remains from these wars. Many states have designated Highways and Bridges identified as POW/MIA Memorials, Kansas does not. This would help to bring more awareness of this issue to Kansans and others who travel through Kansas, and be a relief of the sadness of those who have lost relatives to our country's many wars. We ask that the Committee on Transportation pass this to the full legislature.

Thank You.

Jim Deister

VVA Kansas State Council POW/MIA Chair

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