

Coffey County Commissioners



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TESTIMONY

TO: The Honorable Gary Hayzlett, Chair
And Members of the House Transportation Committee

FROM: Robert L. Saueressig, Coffey County Commissioner

RE: HB 2441 – An Act designation of a portion of U.S. Highway 75 as the
Floyd H. Robinson memorial highway

DATE: January 24, 2012

Good afternoon Chairman Hayzlett and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bob Saueressig and I am a resident of Coffey County, Kansas. I have had the privilege of serving the citizens of Coffey County for the past five years as a member of the Board of Coffey County Commissioners. I am a veteran of the Vietnam War. I am appearing before you today in support of HB – 2441 which would designate that portion of U.S. Highway 75 that runs through Coffey County as the Floyd H. Robinson memorial highway.

Floyd H. Robinson was born on January 28, 1949. He grew up and went to school in Burlington, Kansas. When he was 18 years old, Floyd, like many other Kansas boys, answered the call of duty when he was drafted into military service. On March 12, 1969, Sgt. Floyd H. Robinson was serving as point man for a five man reconnaissance team that was operating in Kontum Province, South Vietnam. During the mission his team became engaged in a firefight with enemy soldiers. Sgt. Robinson and two other soldiers were separated from the rest of their team while evading enemy fire. Several hours later, these three men were again ambushed by the enemy. During this encounter two of the soldiers were able to escape and return to friendly forces. Sgt. Robinson, however, was never seen or heard from again. To this day his exact fate and whereabouts are unknown. Floyd H. Robinson is the only Coffey County veteran of the Vietnam conflict that remains classified as Missing In Action.

As time has passed I have come to realize that those that remember Floyd Robinson are few. Those that never knew or never heard of Floyd Robinson are many. I believe that his life and death are worthy of remembrance. Simply put, Floyd Robinson stepped forward and answered the call of duty when he was summoned by his country. He offered the ultimate sacrifice for his country, as have many. His family's sacrifice was extraordinary; his parents lived out their lives without knowing of their son's fate or being able to lay him to rest.

The story of Floyd Robinson's life and death is a story that should be told. By establishing the Floyd H. Robinson memorial highway and erecting appropriate signage the question of who he was will be asked by many. As time moves forward, more and more people will know the answer to that question. It is my hope that his memory will humble and inspire others for generations to come.

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