

Testimony on House Bill number 2612

House transportation

Presented by:

Jacob Conner Hastings

Royal Valley Middle School

Good afternoon Chairman Hayzlett and members of the House Transportation Committee
My name is Jacob Hastings, I am a member of the 8th grade, Royal Valley Middle School,
Barnes Brothers Memorial Highway Committee. I am here to support House bill number
2612, that will commemorate two great baseball players from Jackson county. On August
of 1917, Private Virgil Barnes joined the roll of Jackson County's Company B of the
Second Kansas Infantry. Upon mobilization Company B became part of the 137th Infantry
Regiment in the Army's 35th Division. During Private Barnes's service in WWI, he and
the 35th division lead the Meuse-Argonne offensive, which has been described as the
deadliest in U.S. military history. As a communications runner when he said he wore out
his shoe leather, he meant it literally. His tattered boots contributed to frostbite on his
feet. On the third day of the offensive Private Barnes was exposed to gas and was
hospitalized. The incident qualified Barnes for the wound chevron. World War I soldiers
who earned a wound chevron were later entitled to exchange it for its current equivalent,
the Purple Heart. Thank for the time and consideration of this bill.

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