



Shawnee Police Department

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Chief Sam Larson
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Chairman Petersen and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of House Bill 2298 which designates a portion of Interstate 435 in Shawnee as the Officer Donald Burton Gamblin Jr. Memorial Highway.

My name is Sam Larson, and I am the Chief of Police for the City of Shawnee where Officer Gamblin served for nearly eight years. Prior to his service with the Shawnee Police Department, Officer Gamblin served in the Vietnam War. He was ultimately killed in the line of duty, being struck by an intoxicated motorist on Interstate 435 during a traffic stop, on Saturday, July 13, 1991.

Officer Gamblin's death has had a lasting impact on his family, our Police Department and the community as a whole. Every year, our officers recognize Officer Gamblin's sacrifice by doing a specialty workout in honor of him called "The Gamblin". We also had the opportunity to permanently honor Officer Gamblin with a park in Shawnee. A memorial plaque now sits at one of the entrances of Gamblin Park near 64th and Monticello.

Officer Gamblin is the only officer killed in the line of duty in Shawnee. I can assure you it is something our officers frequently think about as they put on their uniforms and go out to serve and protect our community with purpose and care. Having the opportunity to name the stretch of 435 where Officer Gamblin paid the ultimate sacrifice would be a needed and important reminder not only to our police officers, but to our entire community.

Officer Gamblin is survived by his wife, three sons, one of which is here to testify today, and a daughter.

I will answer any questions when appropriate. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sam Larson
Chief of Police
City of Shawnee, Kansas

Integrity

Professionalism



Teamwork

Dedication