

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KEN COLLINS
2ND DISTRICT

March 8, 2023

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Kloos, Ranking Member Corson and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of House Bill 2014 which designates a portion of US Highway 69 in Crawford County as the Robert Lessen Memorial Highway.

Mr. Lessen was born April 11, 1918, at Arma, Kansas and passed away on July 22, 2002 in Girard.

He was raised in Arma and graduated from Arma High School. He later attended the University of Kansas on a baseball scholarship and also attended Pittsburg State University and received a degree in business administration.

He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, serving in the Army Air Corps as a B-24 gunner in Europe and with the Flying Tigers and China.

He owned Fox Insurance Agency where he worked as an insurance agent.

He was a member of Arma United Methodist Church; Arma Masonic Lodge No. 408; Arma Eagles; a life member and past commander of the Lon Helm Post No. 182 American Legion at Arma; original board member of Elm Acres youth home. Mr. Lessen had also served on the Arma City Council and as mayor.

When passed, HB 2014 will dedicate the portion of US Highway 69 which bypasses the communities of Arma and Franklin as the Robert Lessen Memorial Highway. Family members plan to provide funding for signage. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.


Ken Collins
Kansas State Representative-Second District
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