

Katie Gumfory Testimony - HB 2507

Dear Committee,

I'm Katie Gumfory, Derek's cousin and I am writing you today to request that you consider dedicating the Slate Creek bridge in Derek's name. I grew up alongside of Derek and will always remember him as a caring and fun-loving kid. To this day when I think of Derek, I remember him telling me that I share a birthday with Dennis Rodman, Derek knew all things NBA, especially when it came to the Chiago Bulls. And as we grew up and became adults, my respect for Derek only grew when he joined the military, he had so much passion for his career, it was truly inspirational. In between deployments, Derek spent time with family and even came to my mother's elementary class to talk to them about what it means to serve your county. Not only did Derek spend his life dedicated to our country, he also turned his wounds into good through The Rimpact Foundation that he co-founded that was created to help other veterans who were also struggling from effects from war. The strength it takes to help others while you are also struggling is something I can only admire. Please consider this dedication in Derek's name for our family and for Derek's memory to live on for years to come.

Sincerely,

Katie Gumfory