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February 11, 2022

Senator Mike Thompson

Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 446

Senate Committee on Transportation

Chairman Petersen and members of the committee,

As a NAVY Veteran, I am in strong support of renaming the bridges on U.S. Highway 166 and K-66 Highway as "Veterans Memorial Bridge".

I know firsthand the sacrifices that service members, and their families make so that they may perform their duties to serve this country.

Back in the 1970s, as a young Petty Officer aboard the USS Lexington, I served under two great patriots; Captain Eugene B. McDaniel, and Commander Ross Terry whose planes were shot down over Viet Nam and were captured and placed in a Vietnamese prison in Hanoi during the Viet Nam War.

Rather than deciding to just go home to a quiet private life after the war...something that most people would expect them to do...both men remained in the NAVY after their release from Hanoi and continued to serve honorably until their retirement. These men exemplify the love of country, and the dedication to duty and fellow their fellow Americans that I think most veterans share.

It is only fitting that we honor Kansas Veterans by renaming these bridges, and I cannot wait to go drive over the bridges to honor the memory of all the great Americans that have served this country. I humbly ask for your support for Senate Bill 446

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson

Senator, 10th District