

**Testimony before the  
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation of the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

L.D. 1425, Resolve, To Dedicate a Portion of Route 6 from Lee to Springfield in Honor of  
Sgt. Blair Emery

Hilary Emery, Gold Star Sister of SGT Blair Emery

Senator Collins, Representative McLean and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, good afternoon. My name is Hilary Emery, and I am the sister of Sergeant Blair W. Emery, who was killed in Iraq on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. I am here to testify in favor of L.D. 1425, *Resolve, To Dedicate a Portion of Route 6 from Lee to Springfield in Honor of Sgt. Blair Emery.*

My brother was an amazing person! He was a great son, brother, husband, and friend. He was also patriotic and proud of his country. Blair decided early on that he wanted to join the military. After the events of September 11, 2001, he was even more determined to serve and to defend our great nation. Blair enlisted in the Army when he graduated from high school in 2002 and was stationed in Ft. Lewis, Washington. Blair represented the state of Maine well when he was in Army, earning the nickname “Moose” and being the guy who lifted everyone’s spirits when they were facing the harsh realities of war. He was on his second tour in Iraq when he was killed by a roadside bomb. I am always proud of my brother, not just because of the way that he died, but mostly because of the way that he lived.

Blair grew up in Lee and my parents and sister continue to live there today. Route 6 runs right through the heart of Lee and I think it would be fitting for this main road to be dedicated in his honor. At this time, Blair is undoubtedly remembered by many in our small town. He had a big personality and was a friend to all. His friends can tell great stories about trips across Route 6 with him during high school when he drove a little truck that his friends called “the red rocket”. I can also remember trips across Route 6 with my family every Sunday on our way to my grandparent’s house for family dinners. People still remember what a great left-handed pitcher that he was for Lee Academy and how he loved to tell jokes and make people smile. I am asking for you to honor Blair with this dedication so that future generations will read his name and be inspired to ask questions and to learn his story.

Blair deserves to be remembered and for his name to be said. He made the ultimate sacrifice on that awful day 13 years ago. I am asking you today to please vote in favor of L.D. 1425, *Resolve, To Dedicate a Portion of Route 6 from Lee to Springfield in Honor of Sgt. Blair Emery.* Having signs placed on Route 6 in his memory will remind people of the high cost of freedom. I know that my family will feel pride when we pass the signs and know that the State of Maine honors and remembers our hero as well. Thank you for your time today and your consideration of this honor for my little brother. I would be happy to answer any questions.