

**Testimony before the
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation of the 130th Legislature**

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

Earl “Bill” Emery, Gold Star Father of SGT Blair Emery

Senator Collins, Representative McLean and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, good afternoon. My name is Bill Emery and I am the father of Sergeant Blair W. Emery, who was killed in Iraq on November 30th, 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.*

It has been said, "A person dies twice: once when they take their final breath, and later, the last time their name is spoken". Although my son took his final breath almost 14 years ago, I am proud to know that his name is still being spoken and that his memory lives on. I am asking for you to designate a portion of Route 6 in memory of my son so that his name lives on for future generations as well.

Blair served his country honorably from 2002 until his death in 2007. He enlisted in the United States Army when he graduated from Lee Academy and served as a Military Police officer. He was on his second tour in Iraq when he was killed. Blair's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart Medal (2nd AWD) (posthumous), Army Commendation Medal (2nd AWD) (posthumous), Army Achievement Medal (3rd AWD), Army Good Conduct medal (2nd AWD) (posthumous), Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Blair grew up in Lee. We moved there in 1987 when he was just 3 years old, and he lived there until he left for the Army in 2002. I think it would be fitting for the main road that runs through our town to be named the "Sgt. Blair Emery Memorial Highway". This road gets a lot of traffic and that means a lot of opportunities for people to speak his name when reading the sign. Please help my son's memory to live on by voting in favor of L.D. 1425, *Resolve, To Dedicate a Portion of Route 6 from Lee to Springfield in Honor of Sgt. Blair Emery.* Thank you for your time today and for your consideration of this honor for my son. Please let me know if you have any questions.