

Christi Grow - HB 2507

January 29, 2024

Dear Committee members

Good afternoon, my name is Christi Grow, I am Derek Martins' aunt. He grew up very close with my children and the rest of his cousins, as we all lived close by in the Wellington, KS area, and got together often. We have a lot of good memories of the kids playing together on their grandparents farm, helping out at harvest time and at all holidays.

One of our most fond memories of Derek, was when The Patriot Guard Riders, a local Wichita television crew and family, including his grandparents, were all at the Wichita airport to welcome Derek back home to Kansas from his third and final deployment. It was a happy and emotional homecoming and such a wonderful memory! We were all so relieved to have him back home, safe and sound in Kansas.

The Rimpact Foundation, that Derek and a veteran friend co-founded, was beneficial for him in many aspects. Staying connected with others who were also struggling with the effects from being in war was very important to him. And also, to those who he spent his time with and helped.

Derek always enjoyed life and making others laugh, he was the instigator of fun in the family. Having this bridge dedicated in memory of SrA Derek Scott Martin is something that he is very deserving of. Please consider.

Thank you for your time,

Christi Grow