



22 Too Many

The Honorable Bill Rhiley
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

January 28, 2024

Dear Representative Rhiley,

I am writing to ask that you consider dedicating the bridge in Sumner County, Kansas in memory of SrA Derek Scott Martin, USAF. Though I did not know SrA Martin personally, I believe he is worthy of this honor. He served our country in multiple deployments with Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his brave service he was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart. Derek was also scarred with the 'hidden wounds' of war – post traumatic stress. After his active military service in the Air Force, Derek still worked tirelessly to serve others. His goal was to help other veterans who served in combat. He partnered with the Wounded Warrior Project, sharing his story to help others know they were not suffering alone. He also co-founded a nonprofit organization, Rimpact Foundation, whose mission was to bring wounded warriors together in a healing environment centered around community and the game of golf. His time was spent giving lessons and providing funds for golf games and equipment.

Derek also loved his role as a father to his young children. He volunteered at their school and with their sports teams. It would be meaningful for his children to be able to see their dad honored in his hometown by having something tangible dedicated to their father.

Though Derek is due burial with full military honors at a national cemetery, this has not happened due to the timing of his death (during COVID) and family decisions made by his next of kin. His mother and family have no physical place to visit to honor and remember Derek. Please consider dedicating this bridge in his memory to encourage his family who has sacrificed so much.

Thank you,

Keri Jacobs

Keri Jacobs

President and Co-Founder of 22 Too Many, a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

CC: Deb Paschall Deb.paschall@house.ks.gov