

Testimony on House Bill 2612

Senate Transportation Committee

Presented by:

Jenna Rose Thurman

Royal Valley Middle School

Good Morning Chairman Umbarger and members of the Senate Transportation Committee My name is Jenna Thurman, I am a member of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Royal Valley Middle School, Barnes Brothers Memorial Highway Committee. I am here in support House Bill 2612, that will commemorate two great baseball players from Jackson County. I would like to talk about Virgil Barnes art career after baseball. In the mid 1930s Virgil painted murals in the Holton public schools system. Virgil also helped teach art in the Holton public school district. Virgil also painted murals in the Jackson County Courthouse while serving a 30-day sentence for a DUI. The murals were painted on the walls of the courtroom. Some of these paintings are still in the Courtroom today. Around the 1930s Virgil moved to Wichita, Kansas. In April 1938 during the great depression Virgil had a seven-week "baseball school" for junior high and high school boys. Virgil also opened a portrait art studio. Virgil was a self-taught artist with some help from Harry Gibson. Thank you for your time and I hope you consider passing our bill.

Senate  
Transp.  
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