

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KEN COLLINS
2ND DISTRICT

January 18, 2022

Chairman Proehl, Vice Chair Delperdang, Ranking Minority Member Helgeson and other members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing this bill and for giving me the opportunity to address you today. On October 8th, 2006 Army PFC Shane Austin of Edgerton, Kansas was serving in Iraq with Alpha Company, First Battalion of the 35th Armor Regiment when he was killed by an enemy grenade. For his heroism PFC Austin was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

At the time of this tragic but heroic death I was a resident of Edgerton and Shane's father, Terry, was one of my many friends in the community. Terry has since passed on but I still have a number of friends in that area. As would be expected Terry was heartbroken to lose his son but he was also proud of his hero as were Shane's mother Debbie and the rest of his family. The residents of Edgerton have suffered a loss as well as Shane's former teachers and classmates at Gardner Edgerton High School.

I introduced House Bill 2458 along with Representatives Sutton and Proctor to honor this young hero who through his heroism demonstrated many of the ideals that the people of Kansas are known for patriotism, loyalty and duty are just a few. For this reason I ask for your vote for House Bill 2458 to name US Highway 56 between Edgerton and Gardner the PFC Shane Austin Memorial Highway and thank you again for considering this bill.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Collins', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ken Collins

Kansas State Representative-Second District

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