

HOUSE BILL 294

By Bone

AN ACT to name a bridge in Cannon County in honor of the late First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup, IV.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup, IV, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup, IV was born on June 19, 1983 in Memphis, Tennessee and died on June 16, 2007 in Kirkuk, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup, IV was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup, IV was a highly decorated and honored member of the United States Armed Forces and died in the defense of his beloved country; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, First Lieutenant Walkup did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and free the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup, IV served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Armed Forces, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Walkup's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup, IV is regarded by his beloved wife, parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, great grandparents and other family members and friends, as their hero and friend; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Frank B. Walkup, IV should be appropriately recognized and honored for his ultimate sacrifice to his beloved country; and

WHEREAS, the Cannon County Commission has petitioned this Body to name a certain bridge in First Lieutenant Walkup's honor as a lasting tribute to the life of this exceptional soldier and passionate human being who had such an enormous impact on the citizens of Cannon County and upon all who knew him; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge (Bridge No. 08SR14500152-NFA A052) in Cannon County crossing State Route 145 that connects Lock Creek Road, Pleasant Ridge Road and B. Tenpenny Road, is hereby designated the "1st Lt. Frank B. Walkup, IV Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "1st Lt. Frank B. Walkup, IV Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.