

SENATE BILL 495

By Haynes

AN ACT to name a segment of U.S. Highway 70 in
Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County in
honor of the late Tennessee Highway Patrol
Colonel Elmer V. Craig.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary law enforcement officers who, during their lifetimes, contributed significantly to the safety and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Elmer V. Craig, who helped write the history of the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) as the only person ever to hold the title of Chief with that eminent law enforcement organization; his personage still graces several THP and other law enforcement publications and websites; and

WHEREAS, a thirty-two year veteran of THP, Elmer Craig began his illustrious law enforcement career as a motorcycle officer with the Inglewood/Madison Fire and Police Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, he joined THP and was promoted to Corporal on May 11, 1948; he made Sergeant a mere two months later and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1950; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 1949, the Springfield THP Office opened, and Colonel Craig served as supervisor; he also supervised THP Offices in Waverly and Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the Law Enforcement Officers Training School in Clarksville, Colonel Craig truly found his niche with THP as Commander of the elite THP motorcycle unit, Yellow Jackets; and

WHEREAS, he was the Commissioner of Safety for a time and thus served in both the lowest and the highest rank within THP, achieving this remarkable feat twice; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Craig also served with distinction as Chief of the Driver License Examination Section in Nashville and on the security detail for Governor Frank Clement; and

WHEREAS, his career highlights include saving the life of an eighteen-month-old child who had fallen into a sewage pit and transporting serum from Nashville to Springfield to save a youth's life who had been bitten by a snake; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Craig helped make history when his son, Johnny Craig, joined THP, and the pair became the first father and son to serve on the Tennessee Highway Patrol; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Craig served his country honorably in the military, and was the first ex-serviceman to fly solo under the GI Bill of Rights Flying Program at Capital Airways; and

WHEREAS, Elmer V. Craig will always be remembered as a man of integrity who continually strived for the betterment of his community and country; and

WHEREAS, he was a longtime resident of Donelson, and it is thus most appropriate for this General Assembly to name a segment of U.S. Highway 70 (Lebanon Pike) in Donelson that includes the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy to honor Colonel Craig's memory and to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and commitment to protecting and serving through law enforcement; 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 segment of U.S. Highway 70 (Lebanon Pike) in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County from such highway's intersection with Stewarts Ferry Pike to its intersection with Downeymeade Drive is hereby designated the "THP Col. Elmer V. Craig Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to one of the most dedicated and accomplished law enforcement officers this state has ever produced.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of U.S. Highway 70 described in Section 1 as the "THP Col. Elmer V. Craig Memorial Highway".

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 become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. The appellation "THP Col. Elmer V. Craig Memorial Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.