

SENATE BILL 1383

By Johnson

AN ACT to name a segment of highway in Williamson County in honor of the late Sam Cliff Smithson, Sr.

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

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Sam Cliff Smithson, Sr., who at the time of his death was the oldest surviving prisoner of war in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a native of Williamson County, Mr. Smithson was born on April 4, 1912; he passed from this life to a far better existence on January 17, 2008, and was buried with full military honors; and

WHEREAS, a member of America's greatest generation, Mr. Smithson bravely served his country during World War II and was captured by German forces while fighting in the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, he was a prisoner of war of the Germans for approximately one year before he was liberated by General George Patton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smithson received high commendations from the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the Governor of Tennessee for his heroic military service during World War II; and

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day 2009, Williamson County will be placing a memorial honoring Mr. Smithson and his bountiful life at the Five Points Memorial in Franklin; and

WHEREAS, this body to wishes to name a segment of highway in Williamson County to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Sam Cliff Smithson, Sr.; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the segment of U.S. Highway 431 in Williamson County from its intersection with State Route 840 to the southern corporate limits of the City of Franklin is hereby designated the "Sam Cliff Smithson, Sr. Memorial Highway".

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of highway described in Section 1 as the "Sam Cliff Smithson, Sr. 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 "Sam Cliff Smithson, Sr. 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. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of any highway described in this act as the "Sam Cliff Smithson, Sr. Memorial Highway".

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.