

SENATE BILL 2684

By Burks

AN ACT to designate certain exits on I-40 in Cumberland County for
"Milo Lemert - Medal of Honor - WW1".

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those heroic soldier/citizens who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending their country, their principles, and their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean could be more deserving of this special honor than the late Milo Lemert, one of only six Tennesseans who was awarded the Medal of Honor for military service during World War I; and

WHEREAS, this courageous man gave his life so that we may all enjoy the many benefits of living freely in a democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Milo Lemert, First Sergeant, Company G, 119th Infantry, 30th Division, for his heroic service with the U.S. Army in France during World War I; and

WHEREAS, the citation for his Medal of Honor reads in part: "His courageous action in destroying four enemy machine gun nests prevented many casualties among his company and very materially aided in achieving the objective"; and

WHEREAS, a true martyr for freedom, Mr. Lemert was killed as he attacked the fourth enemy machine gun nest; and

WHEREAS, his remains are interred in the Crossville City Cemetery, yet his all too brief life and indelible legacy of heroism still serve to remind us of the many sacrifices our ancestors made to create the bountiful life of contemporary American society; and

WHEREAS, the veterans service organizations of Cumberland County and various prominent citizens have expressed a desire to rename the extended segment of State Route

392 and two interstate interchanges to honor the peerless military service and heroism of Milo Lemert, Cumberland County's sole recipient of the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs in this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The segment of State Route 392 within the corporate limits of the City of Crossville in Cumberland County from such route's intersection with U.S. Highway 127 North (State Route 28) southerly to its terminus at the intersection of U.S. Highway 70 East and Peavine Road (State Route 101) has been designated as the "Milo Lemert Parkway".

SECTION 2. The general assembly recognizes the singular heroism of Milo Lemert and now desires to revise the existing signage for Sergeant Lemert on State Route 392 to reflect more fully our gratitude and respect.

SECTION 3. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating such segment of State Route 392 as provided in Section 1 as the "Milo Lemert Parkway - Medal of Honor Recipient - WW1". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-1-133.

SECTION 4. In addition, the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs on I-40 at westbound exit 322 and eastbound exit 317 designating such exits as the "Milo Lemert - Medal of Honor Recipient - WW1". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-1-133.

SECTION 5. The erection of signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 6. 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 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.