

By: Representative L. Johnson

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO REQUEST A BRIDGE ON ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY 10 IN SEBASTIAN COUNTY BE DESIGNATED THE "SSG JUSTIN "DUTCH" ESTES MEMORIAL BRIDGE".

### Subtitle

TO REQUEST A BRIDGE ON ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY 10 IN SEBASTIAN COUNTY BE DESIGNATED THE "SSG JUSTIN "DUTCH" ESTES MEMORIAL BRIDGE".

WHEREAS, Mr. Justin M. Estes, Staff Sergeant in the United States Army, was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3d Brigade Combat Team, 82d Airborne Division, on March 5, 2007, while on combat patrol operations during Operation Iraqi-Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Estes distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Squad Leader during a complex improvised explosive device attack in the city of Samarra, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, without hesitation and aware of the imminent danger posed, not only by the flames and exploding ordnance but also by secondary improvised explosive devices, Staff Sergeant Estes ran through the inferno to render medical aid and feverishly attempted to save lives, providing medical care until the platoon medic arrived; and Staff Sergeant Estes then took charge of the combat lifesaver team and began moving casualties out of the wreckage and



flames to receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Estes provided calm and decisive leadership at the detonation site, directing the continuing search for paratroopers affected by the blast even as ammunition went off around him; and having cleared the casualties from the fire, and with his equipment literally melting from the intense heat, Staff Sergeant Estes remained as he called the stretcher teams forward, but the imminent danger at which Staff Sergeant Estes had placed himself in order to save the lives of his comrades was realized when he was engulfed in a cloud of smoke and debris as a secondary improvised explosive device detonated directly underneath his feet, killing him instantly; and

WHEREAS, in the ultimate act of bravery and selfless service to his comrades in which he gave his own life, Staff Sergeant Estes attempted to save the lives of 5 of his comrades; and by his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Staff Sergeant Estes gallantly gave his life for his country, upholding the highest traditions of military heroism and reflecting distinct credit upon himself, Task Force Two Panther, Task Force Lightning, and the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, to honor Staff Sergeant Estes' gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States, it is appropriate that the bridge east of Greenwood City Hall and just past the Sebastian County Coal Miners Memorial on Arkansas State Highway 10 be named the "SSG Justin "Dutch" Estes Memorial Bridge",

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives request the Arkansas Department of Transportation name the bridge east of Greenwood City Hall and just past the Sebastian County Coal Miners Memorial on Arkansas State Highway 10 the "SSG Justin "Dutch" Estes Memorial Bridge" and erect appropriate signs to reflect the designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of the resolution shall be presented to Ms. Diane Salyers and the Director of State Highways and Transportation of the Arkansas Department of Transportation by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.