

Testimony on House Bill 2612
Senate Transportation Committee

Presented by:

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Good Morning Chairman Umbarger and members of the Senate Transportation Committee. My name is Jacob Hastings, I am a member of the 8th grade, Royal Valley Middle School, Barnes Brothers Memorial Highway Committee. I am here to support House Bill 2612 that will commemorate two great soldiers from Jackson County. August of 1917, Private Virgil Barnes joined the roll of Jackson County's Company B of the Second Kansas Infantry. Upon mobilization Company B became part of the 137th Infantry Regiment in the Army's 35th Division. During Private Barnes's service in WWI, he and the 35th division lead the Meuse-Argonne offensive, which has been described as the deadliest in U.S. military history. As a communications runner when he said he wore out his shoe leather, he meant it literally. His tattered boots contributed to frostbite on his feet. On the third day of the offensive Private Barnes was exposed to gas and was hospitalized. The incident qualified Barnes for the wound chevron. World War I soldiers who earned a wound chevron were later entitled to exchange it for its current equivalent, the Purple Heart.

Senate
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Att: 6

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