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STATEMENT OF BRAD SMOOT
House Transportation Committee
Regarding 2021 SB 26
March 10, 2021
Oral Proponent

Chairman Proehl and Committee members:

I appear today to urge your support for the passage of 2021 Senate Bill 26, naming a section of Kansas Highway 7 the "Senator Bud Burke Memorial Highway." This legislation was presented last year and passed the Senate with 39 votes. See 2020 SB 377. It was set for hearing in this committee the day the Legislature closed for COVID reasons. It again passed the Senate this year with 39 votes.

Former Kansas Senate President Burke gave much of his life in service to our state and nation. Those of us who had the fortune to work with him in this Capitol are all the better for having known him. For those who didn't have the opportunity to know and work with Senator Burke, a brief legislative bio may be useful. Bud was elected to the Kansas House in 1972 and then appointed to the Senate in '75; then elected in '76 and re-elected for the next 20 years. While in the Senate he served as Chair of Assessment & Taxation Committee, Majority Leader for 4 years and 8 years as Senate President before retirement. During those years he would be involved with two major highway bills, constitutional amendments on liquor by the drink, state lottery and parimutuel racing, property classification and reappraisal and the overhaul of higher ed finance and welfare reform. Just to name a few. Bud's service wasn't limited to Kansas. He was a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot and later a carrier-trained Naval aviator, Captain in the Naval Reserves and Commander of NATO fighter squadron.

Senator Burke was a man of honor, courage and dedication. We hope his leadership skills, demeanor and joyful zest for life will be emulated under this same Capitol dome. It is suitable that from time to time you can recognize the talents, efforts and years of public service for one of your own. No one knows better than you that being an elected official occasionally can be a thankless job. SB 26 gives you a chance to recognize a man who gave decades of his life in the service of Kansans from the very same corridors where you now serve.

Please see the back page of this statement for names of just a few of Bud's colleagues and friends that wish to show their support for this bill as well. There are countless others who would be listed had we only the time to reach out to them. We urge your support of SB 26.

Sincerely,



Brad Smoot
Attorney at Law

Robert T. Stephan
Pat & Connie Hubbell
John Bottenberg
Carol Duffy McDowell
Doug Mays
Jerry & Marla Slaughter
Representative Ron Ryckman
Representative John Resman
John & Michelle Peterson
Sandy & Dr. Mark Praeger
Ed Schaub
Tom Whitaker
Nancy Zogleman
Rep Tom Sawyer

Michael Johnston
Representative Barbara Ballard
Jon & Georgia Small
Sandy & Greg Braden
Mike O'Neal
The Honorable Derek Schmidt
Margie Braden
Ron & Julie Hein
Representative Richard Proehl
Larrie Ann Brown
Bill Brady
Sue Peterson
Rep Henry Helgerson
Kevin Walker