

CCS SS SB 139 -- STATE DESIGNATIONS

This bill makes the following designations:

- (1) The first week of March currently known as "Math, Engineering, Technology and Science (METS) Week" changes to the more commonly recognized acronym "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Week". The week's purpose and observations remain the same (Section 9.138, RSMo);
- (2) The month of January as "State Legislator Remembrance Month" in memory of all state legislators who died while in office (Section 9.368);
- (3) The 12th of June as "Women Veterans Appreciation Day" to highlight the growing number of women in the Armed Forces and the National Guard; and to pay respect to women veterans for their dutiful military service (Section 9.369);
- (4) The first Saturday of October as "Breast Cancer Awareness Day", the most commonly occurring cancer among women in the United States (Section 9.371);
- (5) The third Saturday of October as "Domestic Violence Awareness Day" (Section 9.372);
- (6) January 16th as "Albert Pujols Day" to celebrate the St. Louis Cardinals first baseman (Section 9.373);
- (7) May third as "Shelley v. Kraemer Day" to recognize the historical impact of the United States Supreme Court case that held racially restrictive covenants in residential neighborhoods are not enforceable (Section 9.374);
- (8) November 23rd as "K.C. Wolf Day" (Section 9.377);
- (9) March 19th as "Lloyd Gaines Day" to remember his important role in the early 20th century civil rights movement (Section 9.378);
- (10) The month of May as "Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month" (Section 9.379);
- (11) April 16th as "Baker Service Appreciation Day" in honor of the memories of David and Brian Baker and their lives of service to others (Section 9.387);

(12) The Hawken rifle, a muzzle-loading rifle first manufactured in St. Louis, as the official state rifle of the state of Missouri (Section 10.246);

(13) The city of Piedmont and Wayne county as the "UFO Capitals of Missouri" (Section 10.247);

(14) Perry County as an addition to the "German Heritage Corridor" along the Missouri River, which consists of counties that were greatly influenced by early German settlers (Section 226.1150);

(15) The region of southeast Missouri including the South County area of St. Louis county and the counties of Jefferson, Franklin, Crawford, Dent, Shannon, Oregon, Ste. Genevieve, Washington, St. Francois, Madison, Iron, Perry, Wayne, Reynolds, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Scott, Mississippi, Stoddard, Ripley, Butler, Carter, New Madrid, Pemiscot, and Dunklin as the "Stars and Stripes Historic Region of Missouri" (Section 226.1160);

(16) The "Don Welge Memorial Bridge" on the Missouri portion of the new bridge on State Highway 51 crossing over the Mississippi River in Perry County to the Missouri/Illinois state line. The Department of Transportation will collaborate with the Illinois Department of Transportation in designing, erecting, and maintaining appropriate signs designating each state's portion of the bridge, with the costs to be paid by private donations (Section 227.822); and

(17) The "Major Lee Berra Memorial Highway" on that portion of Interstate 64 from the Interstate 64 ramp to Interstate 270 continuing east to Spoede Road in St. Louis County. The Department of Transportation will erect and maintain appropriate signs with the cost to be paid by private donation (Section 227.834).

This bill establishes the "FA Paul Akers Jr and LCPL Jared Schmitz Memorial Sign Funding Act". Beginning August 28, 2023, for designations on the state highway system honoring members of the Armed Forces killed in the line of duty, members of the Armed Forces who are missing in action, Missouri recipients of the medal of honor, emergency personnel killed while performing duties relating to their employment, or state employees killed while serving the state, no fees shall be assessed and all costs associated with such designations shall be funded by the Department of Transportation (Sections 227.296, 227.297, 227.299).