



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2845		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tourism			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CRAIG DAVID BENNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:24 AM

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I submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 2845, not as a comment on the individual named, but on the use of Missouri statutory law for purely commemorative purposes.

Core Objection: Non-Operative, Symbolic Statute

- HB 2845:**
Creates no enforceable rights
Establishes no transportation policy
Allocates no public funding
Imposes no standards or safety requirements
Produces no regulatory or administrative outcome

The bill functions solely as a naming resolution, despite being codified into Chapter 227, which governs substantive transportation law.

- Improper Use of Transportation Statutes**
Chapter 227, RSMo exists to regulate:
State highway authority
Infrastructure planning and maintenance
Transportation safety and funding structures

- Using this chapter to memorialize individuals:**
Expands the code with non-regulatory content
Dilutes the legal clarity of transportation statutes
Converts statutory law into a record of honorary designations

This is not a proper legislative function.

Private Funding Clause Does Not Cure the Defect

- Although the bill states that signage costs are to be paid by private donations, this does not resolve the underlying issue:**
MoDOT remains obligated to erect and maintain signage
Administrative time and statutory permanence are still imposed
The statute still confers a special designation through law

Symbolic legislation does not become substantive merely because it is privately funded.

Precedent & Equity Concerns

By legislating individual memorials:

The General Assembly creates selective recognition

No neutral criteria or limiting principle is articulated

Future requests become inevitable and politically subjective

This leads to unequal treatment and legislative clutter, not public policy.

For these reasons, House Bill 2845 should not advance.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ABIGAIL HERNDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 7:18 PM
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Is this the correct spelling of the name of the person?



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:44 PM
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Who was Jerrad Bennett and what did they do for our State?