

By Senator Posey

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to highway designations;  
designating the replacement bridge over Lake  
Jesup on State Road 46 near Sanford as the  
"George C. Means Memorial Bridge"; directing  
the Department of Transportation to erect  
suitable markers; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, George C. Means was born in Jacksonville in  
1916 and was a resident of this state until he died in 2005,  
and

WHEREAS, George C. Means graduated from the University  
of Florida in 1938 with 4 years in the Reserve Officer  
Training Corps, and

WHEREAS, George C. Means accepted a commission as a  
Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve and,  
during this service, came to Sanford as the first person hired  
under the Farm Security Administration in Seminole County in  
1939, and he administered the aerial photographing and  
plotting data needed to execute the "AAA" program for  
vegetable farmers, and

WHEREAS, George C. Means was called to active duty in  
1940 to serve as the officer in charge of the Quartermaster  
Center in Tennessee, which was responsible for feeding 700,000  
troops each day, and he handled the logistics of shipping food  
to troops worldwide, and

WHEREAS, in 1941, George C. Means married Minnie Lee  
King of Oviedo, and they moved to Oviedo where he came to work  
for Wheeler Fertilizer in 1947 as a salesman, a position from  
which he retired in 1985, and

1           WHEREAS, George C. Means was a charter member of the  
2 American Legion Post 243 in Oviedo, the Oviedo Historical  
3 Society, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the South  
4 Seminole Christian Church, while also being active in the  
5 Seminole County and Florida Farm Bureau agencies and the  
6 Seminole County Soil and Conservation Service, and

7           WHEREAS, after returning from World War II, George C.  
8 Means noticed that Lake Jesup was beginning to show signs of  
9 environmental distress, and he worked tirelessly to reconnect  
10 the flow of the St. Johns River back into Lake Jesup, and

11           WHEREAS, in 1950 the State Road Department began a  
12 project to improve SR 46 and replace the wooden bridge that  
13 spanned the mouth of the lake with a fill-dirt causeway, and  
14 George C. Means, along with his contemporaries correctly  
15 predicted that great environmental harm would result from this  
16 isolation of the lake, and

17           WHEREAS, George C. Means took every opportunity to  
18 speak to elected officials and to educate everyone he met on  
19 the damage caused by the causeway, and until the end of his  
20 life he educated and lobbied everyone who would listen, and

21           WHEREAS, George C. Means died shortly after the  
22 replacement bridge design had been adopted, and he knew that  
23 the problem would be addressed, NOW, THEREFORE,

24  
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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27           Section 1. George C. Means Memorial Bridge designated;  
28 Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.--

29           (1) The replacement bridge over Lake Jesup on State  
30 Road 46 near Sanford designated as the "George C. Means  
31 Memorial Bridge."

