

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: CS/SB 1034

INTRODUCER: Transportation Committee and Senator Hooper

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations

DATE: March 16, 2021

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Price	Vickers	TR	Fav/CS
2.			ATD	
3.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1034 creates the following honorary or memorial road and bridge designations:

- Bridge number 100850 on S.R. 60/Courtney Campbell Causeway over Old Tampa Bay in Hillsborough County as “Virginia Creighton Bridge.”
- The portion of S.R. 715/Bacom Point Road between W. Morgan Road and S.W. 14th Street in Palm Beach County as “Deputy Sheriff Donta Manuel and Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Wallace Highway.”
- The portion of S.R. 100 in Clay County between the Bradford County line and the Putnam County line as “Veterans Honor Highway.”
- Upon completion of construction, the interchange at First Coast Expressway/S.R. 23 and Henley Road in Clay County as "Sergeant Eric John Twisdale Memorial Interchange."
- The portion of I-75 between the Charlotte County line bordering DeSoto County and the Lee County line bordering Collier County as “Purple Heart Highway.”
- The portion of Davie Boulevard between S.W. 35th Avenue and S.W. 36th Avenue in Broward County as “Rubin Stacy Memorial Boulevard.”
- The portion of S.R. A1A between Glenwood Avenue and Park Avenue in Brevard County as "Sophia Nelson Memorial Highway."
- The portion of U.S. 19/S.R. 55 between U.S. 41/S.R. 45/Tamiami Trail and Palm View Road in Manatee County as “Tiffany Marie Olson Memorial Highway.”
- The portion of U.S. 27/S.R. 25 between the Polk County line and the Glades County line in Highlands County as "Deputy William Gentry, Jr., Highway."

- The portion of S.R. 520/W. King Street between S.R. 501/Clearlake Road and S.R. 519/Fiske Boulevard in Brevard County as "Sgt. George Lee Taylor, Sr., Memorial Highway."
- The portion of S.R. 519/Fiske Boulevard between Rosa L. Jones Drive and I-95 in Brevard County as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard."
- The intersection of Southwest 23rd Avenue and Southwest 8th Street in the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, as "Arturo Diaz Artilles Plaza."

The bill directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

The estimated cost to the FDOT to install the designation markers required under the bill is \$12,000. See Section V, "Fiscal Impact Statement," for details.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides that legislative designations of transportation facilities are for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Such designations are not to be construed as requiring any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes.¹

When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the FDOT is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated by the law creating the designation and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility.²

The FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, each affected local government must pass resolutions supporting the designations before installation of the markers.³

Virginia Creighton

Virginia Creighton worked in the field of wetland science and regulation for almost three decades, with a combination of government policy, regulatory, and environmental consulting experience. Ms. Creighton was a certified Professional Wetland Scientist and specialized in formal jurisdictional determinations and wetland qualitative analyses. She acted as an environmental project manager on multiple FDOT and local-level projects, as well as for private developments, including small and large-scale developments of regional impact. She was directly involved in obtaining environmental resource permits for over fifty transportation projects. Ms. Creighton was essential to development of the Courtney Campbell Causeway – Old Tampa Bay Water Quality Improvement project, and she received an award for the Best Project

¹ Section 334.071(1), F.S.

² Section 334.071(2), F.S.

³ Section 334.071(3), F.S.

in Florida from the FDOT in 2018. Ms. Creighton passed away on May 29, 2020, survived by her husband and two sons.⁴

Deputy Sheriffs Donta Manuel and Jonathan Wallace

On November 28, 2007, as other deputies pursued a stolen vehicle that had just passed over “stop sticks”⁵ in the roadway on State Road 715 near Lake Okeechobee, Deputies Manuel and Wallace ran into the roadway in an attempt to remove the stop sticks. Apparently, due to the darkness, Deputies Manuel and Wallace did not perceive the speed at which the pursuing patrol cars were following behind the suspect vehicle. One of the pursuing patrol cars struck and killed both deputies. The driver of that pursuing patrol car was seriously injured and flown to a local hospital. One of the suspects in the stolen vehicle was apprehended a short time later.

Deputy Manuel served with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office (PBCSO) for 13 years. He is survived by his wife, Suzette Manuel, sons Donta and Diontray Manuel, and daughter Dashja Trawick.⁶ Deputy Wallace served with the PBSCO for 18 months. He is survived by his mother, Patricia Wallace.⁷

Florida’s Veterans

The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs notes that:

Florida has earned a reputation as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. Our state’s veterans bring more than \$18.4 billion federal dollars annually into Florida’s economy.

Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation after California and Texas with more than 1.5 million veterans – 12 percent of the Sunshine State’s population 18 and over.⁸

The bill honors Florida’s veterans in Clay County and throughout the state.

Sergeant Eric John Twisdale

Sergeant Twisdale served with the Clay County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) for 22 years, having previously served with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office. One of thousands of law enforcement

⁴ See email to committee staff, December 7, 2020 (on file in the Senate Transportation Committee). See also Legacy, *Virginia A. “Ginger” (Sinn) Creighton*, available at [Virginia Creighton Obituary - \(2020\) - Land O’ Lakes, FL - St. Augustine Record \(legacy.com\)](#) (retrieved February 11, 2021).

⁵ See the SunSentinel, *Stop Sticks help put the brakes on escaping criminals*, May 25, 2013, available at [Stop Sticks help put the brakes on escaping criminals - Sun Sentinel \(sun-sentinel.com\)](#) (retrieved January 15, 2021).

⁶ See the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, *Fallen Heroes*, available at [Fallen Heroes - Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office \(pbsso.org\)](#) (retrieved January 15, 2021).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ See the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs (FDVA), *Our Veterans*, available at [Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs | Connecting veterans to federal and state benefits they have earned. \(floridavets.org\)](#) (retrieved January 15, 2021). See also FDVA, *Fast Facts*, available at [Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs | Connecting veterans to federal and state benefits they have earned. \(floridavets.org\)](#) (retrieved January 15, 2021).

officers and other first responders throughout the county who contracted COVID-19 while selflessly serving the public, Sergeant Twisdale passed away on August 16, 2020, at the age of 49, after contracting the infection, presumably from exposure at the Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Twisdale is survived by his children, Katie, Thomas, and Stephanie; his grandchildren, Cain, Declan, Finola, Jameson, and Autumn; his brothers, Norman and Tim; his sister, Debbie; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and his second family, the CCSO.⁹

Purple Heart Highway

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is a combat decoration.¹⁰

Rubin Stacy

Rubin Stacy was born in about 1907 in Thomas County, Georgia. Various sources indicate that in June of 1935, Mr. Stacy was a homeless tenant farmer who was accused of threatening a woman, Marion Jones, in Fort Lauderdale, who let Mr. Stacy into her home after he asked for food or water. Ms. Jones later recanted the accusation. Mr. Stacy was subsequently arrested on a charge of attempted murder and brought to jail in Broward County. After being identified as Ms. Jones' attacker, Mr. Stacy was returned to the Broward County Jail, where "lynching rumors" prompted the Broward County Sheriff, Walter Clark, to move Mr. Stacy to the Dade County jail in Miami. On July 19, 1935, the car transporting Mr. Stacy was attacked and forced off the road. Reports indicate that Mr. Stacy was abducted and taken back to Ms. Jones' home, where he was hung with rope taken from her clothesline. Mr. Stacy, reportedly one of at least 280 people who were hung between 1882 and 1968 in Florida, was survived by a wife and toddler son. No one was indicted for his death.¹¹

Sophia Nelson

In December of 2019, 12-year-old Sophia Nelson was struck and killed by a vehicle while attempting to cross State Road A1A near Ellwood Avenue in Satellite Beach, using a mid-block crosswalk. The driver of the vehicle reportedly applied brakes and slowed down but failed to stop, indicating that she did not see Sophia. No criminal charges were brought against the driver due to a lack of any evidence that the driver was operating the vehicle in a dangerous or reckless

⁹ See Officer Down Memorial Page, *Sergeant Eric John Twisdale*, available at <https://www.odmp.org/officer/24909-sergeant-eric-john-twisdale> (retrieved March 11, 2021). See also Dignity Memorial, *Sgt. Eric John Twisdale*, available at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/jacksonville-fl/eric-twisdale-9368207> (retrieved March 11, 2021).

¹⁰ Military Order of the Purple Heart website, *About*, available at [Military Order of the Purple Heart](https://www.militaryorderofthepurpleheart.com/about) (retrieved March 11, 2021).

¹¹ See Find A Grave, *Rubin Stacy*, available at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24771844/rubin-stacy> (retrieved January 21, 2021). See also Sun Sentinel, *A lynch mob killed a Black man in Fort Lauderdale in 1935. His name was Rubin Stacy*, available at <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fort-lauderdale/fl-ne-rubin-stacy-lynching-memorial-20200911-u3f6jg26izerllal7vva6nz3wi-story.html>; Historymaking.org, Textbook, *Lynching of Rubin Stacy*, available at <http://historymaking.org/textbook/exhibits/show/reconciliation/item/263>; Civil Rights and Restorative Justice, *Rubin Stacy Case Summary*, available at https://repository.library.northeastern.edu/downloads/neu:m0428765z?datastream_id=content (all retrieved January 21, 2021).

manner. Sophia is survived by her parents, Mark and Jill Nelson, who have supported legislation relating to mid-block crosswalks to reduce driver confusion and increase pedestrian safety.¹²

Tiffany Marie Olson

On December 7, 2005, 22 year-old Tiffany Marie Olson was involved in a serious accident while a passenger on a motorcycle. Law enforcement was unable to find any contact information for her family and, by the time they were able to notify her mother, Tiffany had passed away from her injuries. Tiffany's mother was unable to say goodbye. In her honor, Tiffany's mother, Christine Olson, worked tirelessly toward a process allowing people to voluntarily have contact information placed in the Driver and Vehicle Information Database of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, facilitating prompt notification in the case of life-threatening crashes.¹³

Deputy William Gentry, Jr.

Deputy Gentry grew up in Fort Myers, joining the Highlands County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) in March of 2005 and joined the K-9 Unit as soon as he could. For four years, he and his K-9 partner, Roni, patrolled the county. When Roni retired from service in 2012, Deputy Gentry transferred back to road patrol, and then to the Special Investigations Unit, targeting illegal drugs until 2013. After a brief period of time using his talents as an artist and woodworker to make custom pool cues, Deputy Gentry returned to the HCSO in 2017, becoming a field training deputy and mentoring young deputies beginning their law enforcement careers. Responding to an animal abuse call with a trainee, Deputy Gentry was shot by a 69 year-old suspect and succumbed to his wounds on May 7, 2018. He is survived by his parents, his younger brother, and his beloved dogs.¹⁴

Sgt. George Lee Taylor, Sr.

George Lee Taylor, Sr., was born in Oak Hill, West Virginia, in 1950 and moved to Florida around 1960. He served in the U.S. Army after high school, from 1967 to 1971, as a Paratrooper with the 173rd Airborne Brigade during the Vietnam War. He served honorably, earning a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Combat Infantry Badge. After returning home, he worked tirelessly to address the needs of veterans, with a specific focus on finding homeless camps and the homeless veterans in them to help veterans get the care and housing they deserve. He founded National Veterans Homeless Support in 2008, and he is said to have helped to reduce the homeless veteran population in Brevard County by 90 percent. Mr. Taylor passed away on May 17, 2020.

¹² See Florida Today, *Sophia Nelson's family forgives driver in fatal A1A crosswalk crash in Satellite Beach*, available at <https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2020/02/27/sophia-nelsons-family-forgives-driver-fatal-a-1-a-crosswalk-crash-satellite-beach/4895616002/> (retrieved February 11, 2021)

¹³ See Driving Down Heartache, *Tiffany Marie Olson: 5/27/83-12/7/05*, available at [Tiffany Marie Olson: 5/27/83 - 12/7/05 - Driving Down Heartache](#) (retrieved March 11, 2021). See also RPM Ministries, *The Story of Biblical Counseling, Tiffany Marie Olson's Story*, available at [The Story of Biblical Counseling - RPM Ministries](#) (retrieved March 11, 2021).

¹⁴ See Officer Down Memorial Page, *Deputy Sheriff William Jackson Gentry, Jr.*, available at <https://www.odmp.org/officer/23672-deputy-sheriff-william-jackson-gentry-jr> (retrieved March 12, 2021). See also Legacy.com, *William J Gentry, Jr.*, available at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/william-gentry-jr-obituary?pid=188976004> (retrieved March 12, 2021).

He is survived by his wife, Jan; two sons, three daughters, three brothers, three sisters, and ten grandchildren.¹⁵

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His leadership led to the ending the legal segregation in the South and other parts of the United States. He rose to national prominence as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, promoting nonviolent efforts to achieve civil rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Arturo Diaz Artiles

Arturo Diaz Artiles was a Cuban exile, born in Santa Clara Cuba in 1920 and immigrating to the City of Miami in 1962. In 1965, he opened the Santa Clara Pharmacy at the corner of Southwest 23rd Avenue and Southwest 8th Street in Miami, only the second Cuban-owned pharmacy in the city at the time. Mr. Artiles' pharmacy filled prescriptions, but it served as an important community gathering location for Cuban exiles, especially the elderly. Mr. Artiles operated the pharmacy for nearly 50 years until 2004. During that time, he also received the United Way Dade County Gold award for 30 years of service to his community, the Latin Real Estate Organization Board of Directors Award, and the City's Certification of Appreciation. A founding member of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, the Miami-Dade County Commission issued a proclamation declaring February 25 as Arturo "Arturito" Diaz Artiles Day and presented him with a key to the County. Mr. Artiles passed away on November 11, 2013. He is survived by his three children, Arturo Diaz, Jr., Ana Cepero, and Aixa Schulte.¹⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates the following honorary or memorial road and bridge designations:

- Bridge number 100850 on S.R. 60/Courtney Campbell Causeway over Old Tampa Bay in Hillsborough County as "Virginia Creighton Bridge."
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- The portion of S.R. 100 in Clay County between the Bradford County line and the Putnam County line as "Veterans Honor Highway."
- Upon completion of construction, the interchange at First Coast Expressway/S.R. 23 and Henley Road in Clay County as "Sergeant Eric John Twisdale Memorial Interchange."
- The portion of I-75 between the Charlotte County line bordering DeSoto County and the Lee County line bordering Collier County as "Purple Heart Highway."
- The portion of Davie Boulevard between S.W. 35th Avenue and S.W. 36th Avenue in Broward County as "Rubin Stacy Memorial Boulevard."

¹⁵ See Legacy.com, *George Taylor, Sr.*, available at [George Taylor Obituary \(1950 - 2020\) - Mims, FL, FL - FloridaToday \(legacy.com\)](#).

¹⁶ See the City of Miami Resolution R-21-0059, February 11, 2021 (on file in the Senate Transportation Committee), *See also* letter from the children of Arturo Diaz Artiles, January 20, 2021 (on file in the Senate Transportation Committee).

- The portion of S.R. A1A between Glenwood Avenue and Park Avenue in Brevard County as "Sophia Nelson Memorial Highway."
- The portion of U.S. 19/S.R. 55 between U.S. 41/S.R. 45/Tamiami Trail and Palm View Road in Manatee County as "Tiffany Marie Olson Memorial Highway."
- The portion of U.S. 27/S.R. 25 between the Polk County line and the Glades County line in Highlands County as "Deputy William Gentry, Jr., Highway."
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- The portion of S.R. 519/Fiske Boulevard between Rosa L. Jones Drive and I-95 in Brevard County as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard."
- The intersection of Southwest 23rd Avenue and Southwest 8th Street in the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, as "Arturo Diaz Ariles Plaza."

The bill directs the FDOT to erect suitable markers.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The estimated cost to erect the designation markers required under this bill is \$12,000, based on the assumption that a minimum of two markers are required for each designation at a cost to the FDOT of no less than \$500 each. The estimate includes sign fabrication, installation, and maintenance over time but does not include any additional expenses related to maintenance of traffic, dedication event costs, or replacement necessitated by damage, vandalism, or storm events. The FDOT is expected to absorb the estimated cost within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

The bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)**CS by the Transportation Committee on March 16, 2021:**

The CS adds the following designations to the bill:

- “Deputy Sheriff Donta Manuel and Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Wallace Highway” in Palm Beach County.
- “Veterans Honor Highway” in Clay County.
- "Sergeant Eric John Twisdale Memorial Interchange" in Clay County.
- “Purple Heart Highway” in Charlotte and Lee Counties.
- “Rubin Stacy Memorial Boulevard” in Broward County.
- “Sophia Nelson Memorial Highway in Brevard County.
- “Tiffany Marie Olson Memorial Highway” in Manatee County.
- “Deputy William Gentry, Jr., Highway” Highlands County.
- “Sgt. George Lee Taylor, Sr., Memorial Highway” in Brevard County.
- “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard” in Brevard County.
- “Arturo Diaz Artilas Plaza” in Miami-Dade County.

B. Amendments:

None.