

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 Fiscal Policy

BILL: CS/CS/CS/SB 868

INTRODUCER: Fiscal Policy Committee; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Transportation Committee; and Senator Boyd

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations

DATE: February 26, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Nortelus</u>	<u>Jerrett</u>	<u>ATD</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/CS/CS/SB 868 creates the following honorary transportation facility designations and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers for:

- Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto Memorial Highway in Manatee County.
- Dylan Roberts Memorial Crosswalk in Alachua County.
- AWF3 Mohammed ‘Mo’ Haitham Memorial Way in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.
- Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor Memorial Highway in Charlotte County.
- Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Henry Dean Road in St. Johns County.
- Abe Resnick Drive in Miami-Dade County.
- Pastor Rick Blackwood Street in Miami-Dade County.
- Gus Kopelousos Memorial Highway in Clay County.
- MICCO Way in Miami-Dade County.
- Major John Leroy Haynes Memorial Highway in Leon and Jefferson Counties
- Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway in various north Florida counties.
- Randy Roberts Memorial Highway in Polk County.
- Carol Jenkins Barnett Memorial Highway in Polk County.

The bill also redesignates a bridge in St. Lucie County as the E.C. Summerlin Family Bridge.

The bill has an insignificant, negative fiscal impact on state government. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

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 the installation of the markers.³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law creating honorary designations of transportation facilities.

Subsection 1 designates that portion of U.S. 19 between Palm View Road and Terra Ceia Road in Manatee County as “Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto Memorial Highway.”

On November 6, 2019, 20-year old Army Specialist Nicholas Panipinto was killed when, in a training accident, his Bradley fighting vehicle rolled over.⁴ He graduated from Manatee High School in 2017 and joined the US Army in January 2018, as an Infantryman. Nicholas was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon and received the Expert Marksmanship Badge.⁵

¹ Section 334.071(1), F.S.

² Section 334.071(2), F.S.

³ Section 334.071(3), F.S.

⁴ My Fallen Soldiers, *Panipinto Nicholas*, <https://myfallensoldiers.com/2019/11/06/panipinto-nicholasarmy-specialist/>, (last visited February 2, 2024).

⁵ Nicholas C. Panipinto Obituary, <https://www.brownandsonsfuneral.com/obituary/nicholas-panipinto> (last visited February 2, 2024).

Subsection 2 designates the mid-block crossing and pedestrian hybrid beacon on that portion of E. University Avenue/S.R. 26 between N.E. 26th Terrace and S.E. 26th Terrace in Alachua County as “Dylan Roberts Memorial Crosswalk.”

On October 27, 2021, four-year old Dylan Roberts was tragically killed when hit by a car while crossing East University Avenue in Gainesville.⁶ The FDOT has installed a pedestrian crosswalk at the site of Dylan’s death.⁷

Subsection 3 designates those portions of the Gandy Bridge on U.S. 92 located within of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties as “AWF3 Mohammed “Mo” Haitham Memorial Way.”

On December 6, 2019, Airman Mohammed “Mo” Haitham was the victim of an active shooter at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. He has been widely recognized as a hero for his actions in connection with the incident. Airman Haitham was a 2018 graduate of Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg.⁸

Subsection 4 designates that portion of I-75 between U.S. 17/Duncan Road and Harbor View Road in Charlotte County as “Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor Memorial Highway.”

On November 22, 2022, 23-year old Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor was fatally struck by an impaired motorist while conducting a traffic stop on I-75. Deputy Sheriff Taylor joined the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office in August 2021 and was officially sworn in on February 14, 2022.⁹

Subsection 5 designates that portion of S.R. 434 between S.R. 400 and Ronald Reagan Blvd. in Seminole County as “Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil Memorial Highway.”

On December 29, 1977, Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil was mortally wounded when he interrupted an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Longwood. Deputy Sheriff Pfeil was a retired New York City police officer who served as a reserve deputy sheriff after moving to Florida.¹⁰

Subsection 6 designates that portion of U.S. 17-92 between 1st Street and 25th Street in Seminole County as “Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore Memorial Highway.”

On June 9, 1975, Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore succumbed to smoke inhalation and intense heat exposure while rescuing inmates during a fire at the Seminole County Jail. Deputy Sheriff Moore

⁶ Aaron Adelson, *Mother of 4-year old hit and killed pleas for pedestrian safety*, November 10, 2021, <https://mycbs4.com/news/local/mother-of-4-year-old-hit-and-killed-pleas-pedestrian-safety> (last visited February 2, 2024).

⁷ Seth Johnson, *Gainesville unveils new road sign in honor of Dylan Roberts*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/news/gainesville-road-sign-dylan-roberts> (last visited February 2, 2023).

⁸ The United States Navy Memorial, *Mohammed Sameh "Mo" Haitham*, <https://navylog.navy Memorial.org/haitham-mohammed> (last visited February 2, 2024).

⁹ Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office, *Deputy Christopher Taylor tragically killed in the line of duty*, <https://ccsoblog.org/2022/11/23/deputy-christopher-taylor-tragically-killed-in-the-line-of-duty/> (last visited February 2, 2024).

¹⁰ Seminole County Sheriff’s Office, *In Memoriam*, <https://www.seminolesheriff.org/page.aspx?id=18> (last visited February 2, 2024).

had successfully brought several inmates to safety before heroically re-entering the burning jail, in yet another attempt to save trapped inmates.¹¹

Subsection 7 designates that portion of C.R. 419 between Snow Hill Road and the Orange County line in Seminole County as “Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs Memorial Highway.”

On September 14, 1922, Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a man for theft. Deputy Sheriff Jacobs located the man at a nearby home, where the suspect opened fire, striking Deputy Sheriff Jacobs. Deputy Sheriff Jacobs was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.¹²

Subsection 8 designates that portion of Guana River Road between South Ponte Verde Boulevard and the Guana River Research Reserve in St. Johns County as “Henry Dean Road.”

Henry Dean, a long-time resident of St. Johns County, served as Executive Director of the St. Johns River Water Management District for 17 years and the South Florida Water Management District for four years. Since 2016, he has served on the St. Johns County Commission.¹³

Subsection 9 designates that portion of Bay Avenue between West 25th Street and West 27th Street in Sunset Islands in Miami Dade County as “Abe Resnick Drive.”

Abe Resnick was a Holocaust survivor who was born in Lithuania. In 1960, he moved to Miami-Dade County, and from 1985 to 1993 served on the Miami Beach City Commission. He helped develop the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach. Mr. Resnick passed away on September 3, 1998.¹⁴

Subsection 10 designates that portion of S.W. 168th Street between U.S. 1 and S.W. 89th Avenue in Miami-Dade County as “Pastor Rick Blackwood Street.”

Reverend Dr. Rick Blackwood served as lead pastor of Christ Fellowship Church in South Florida for 23 years. Pastor Blackwood passed away on August 4, 2023.¹⁵

Subsection 11 designates that portion of S.R. 16 between C.R. 225 and Rifle Range Road in Clay County as “Gus Kopelousos Memorial Highway.”

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ St. Johns County, Board of County Commissioners, *About Commissioner Dean*, <https://www.sjcfl.us/bcc-district-5/> (last visited February 13, 2024).

¹⁴ Miami-Dade County Legislative Item File No. 990425, *Codesignating Dade Boulevard as Abe Resnick Boulevard*. Adopted March 4, 1999. <https://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/matter.asp?matter=990425&file=false&yearFolder=Y1999> (last visited February 13, 2024). Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, <https://holocaustmemorialmiamibeach.org/about/history/> (last visited February 13, 2024).

¹⁵ Miami Herald, *Rev. Dr. Rick Blackwood*, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/herald/name/rick-blackwood-obituary?id=52928579>, (last visited February 21, 2024).

Constantinos “Gus” Kopelousos of Starke, Florida, was raised by Greek immigrant parents, graduated from the University of Tampa, and subsequently took over the family business, the Garden Restaurant.¹⁶ Mr. Kopelousos passed away on May 22, 2023.¹⁷

Subsection 12 designates that portion of S.R. 997/Krome Avenue/ W. 177th Avenue between S.W. 8th Street and the entrance to the Miccosukee Casino & Resort in Miami-Dade County as “MICCO WAY.”

The Miccosukee Indians were originally part of the Creek Nation, and then migrated to Florida before it became part of the United States.¹⁸ The Miccosukee currently have over 600 tribal members and three reservation areas in Florida, including the Tamiami Trail Reservation area.¹⁹

Subsection 13 designates that portion of S.R. 59 between U.S. 90 and U.S. 27 in Leon and Jefferson Counties as “Major John Leroy Haynes Memorial Highway.”

Major John Leroy Haynes completed 30 years of military service in the United States Marine Corps, followed by almost 50 years of volunteer service to veterans and their families. Major Haynes received numerous military and civilian awards, including the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star and Combat “V”, induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in 2013, and the Governor’s Medal of Merit in 2017. Major Haynes passed away on November 14, 2023.²⁰

Subsection 14 designates that portion of I-10 between the Alabama state line and I-75 is designated as “Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway.”

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American military aviators in the United States armed forces. During their years of operation, from 1940 to 1946, 996 pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Approximately 445 were deployed overseas and 150 lost their lives during that period. Sixty-six pilots were killed in action or accidents and 32 were captured and held as prisoners of war.²¹

Subsection 15 designates that portion of S.R. 570/Polk Parkway between mile marker 3.5 and mile marker 2.5 in Polk County is designated as “Randy Roberts Memorial Highway.”

¹⁶ The Florida Times-Union, *Constantinos Kopelousos*, <https://www.jacksonville.com/obituaries/pfla0495884> (last visited February 21, 2024).

¹⁷ Echovita, *Constantinos “Gus” Kopelousos*, <https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/fl/starke/constantinos-kopelousos-16448155> (last visited February 21, 2024).

¹⁸ Miccosukee Casino & Resort, *History of the Miccosukee Tribe*, <https://miccosukee.com/miccosukee-tribe-history/> (last visited February 21, 2024).

¹⁹ Letter from Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Clerk of the Court and Comptroller, Miami-Dade County, Resolution No. R-116-23 of Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, (December 12, 2023).

²⁰ Tallahassee Democrat, *Major John L. Haynes*, (November 18, 2023), <https://www.tallahassee.com/obituaries/psar0631025> (last visited Feb. 15, 2024).

²¹ The Tuskegee Airmen on BlackPast.Org, <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/tuskegee-airmen-blackpast-org/#:~:text=The%20Tuskegee%20Airmen%20were%20the,their%20lives%20during%20that%20period.> (last visited February 21, 2024).

Randy Roberts, a lifelong Floridian, served as the Director of Government Affairs for Publix Supermarkets. The Randy Roberts Foundation was established as a way of celebrating Randy's life. The foundation was established to help young men and women who care about their community and who want to make an impact. Mr. Roberts passed away on February 27, 2009.²²

Subsection 16 designates that portion of S.R. 35/George Jenkins Boulevard between Kathleen Road and North Sloan Avenue in Polk County is designated as "Carol Jenkins Barnett Memorial Highway."

Carol Jenkins Barnett was born and raised in Lakeland, Florida. She began with Publix in 1972 as a cashier at Grove Park Shopping Center in Lakeland and later worked in Publix's corporate marketing research and development department. In 1983, she joined the foundation's board of directors (which would later become Publix Super Markets Charities) which instilled in her a passion for the needs of the communities Publix serves. She was involved in generously giving back to nonprofit organizations including United Way, Florida Partnership for School Readiness, and Family Fundamentals, as well as countless others. Ms. Barnett passed away on Dec. 7, 2021.²³

The bill amends Ch. 65-781, Laws of Fla., to designate the new S.R. A1A North Causeway Bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway in St. Lucie County as "E.C. Summerlin Family Bridge." This designation replaces the "D.H. 'Banty' Saunders Bridge" designation.²⁴

The Summerlin name has been connected with Florida since 1770, when members of the family came from England and Scotland and settled on the St. Mary's River in the border between the British colony of Georgia and the Spanish colony of Florida. In 1888, Edward Cabell Summerlin and his wife, Pollyanna, arrived near St. Lucie Village. Edward Cabell Summerlin and his wife had 14 children. More than 250 people of varying degrees of kinship to E.C. Summerlin live in the Treasure Coast and across state.²⁵

The bill directs the FDOT to erect suitable markers for each of the above honorary designations.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

²² Randy Roberts Foundation, <https://www.randyrobertsfoundation.org/about-us> (last visited February 21, 2024).

²³ The Children's Movement of Florida, *Carol Jenkins Barnett, Board Member Emerita (Deceased)*, <https://www.childrensmovementflorida.org/about/people/carol-jenkins-barnett> (last visited February 21, 2024).

²⁴ Ch. 65-781, Laws of Fla.

²⁵ Treasure Coast Palm, *Summerlins celebrate their Treasure Coast Legacy*, <https://archive.tcpalm.com/news/summerlins-celebrate-their-treasure-coast-legacy-ep-400832953-347895831.html> (last visited February 21, 2024).

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 \$52,200, based on the assumption that a minimum of two markers are required at a cost to the FDOT of no less than \$900 each, with one marker each direction in each county for the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway designation. The estimate includes labor, materials, manufacturing, and installation. The FDOT is expected to absorb the estimated cost within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida Statutes.

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 Fiscal Policy Committee on February 22, 2023:

The committee substitute designates the following additional honorary designations for transportation facilities:

- Pastor Rick Blackwood Street in Miami-Dade County.
- Gus Kopelousos Memorial Highway in Clay County.
- MICCO Way in Miami-Dade County.
- Major John Leroy Haynes Memorial Highway in Leon and Jefferson Counties
- Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway in various north Florida counties.
- Randy Roberts Memorial Highway in Polk County.
- Carol Jenkins Barnett Memorial Highway in Polk County.

The committee substitute also redesignates a bridge in St. Lucie County as the E.C. Summerlin Family Bridge.

CS by Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development on February 13, 2024:

The committee substitute:

- Adds the military rank and removes the middle name for the “AWF3 Mohammed ‘Mo’ Haitham Memorial Way” designation.
- Designates Henry Dean Road in St. Johns County.
- Designates Abe Resnick Drive in Miami-Dade County.

CS by Transportation on January 30, 2023:

The committee substitute designates the following additional honorary designations for transportation facilities:

- Dylan Roberts Memorial Crosswalk in Alachua County.
- Airman Mohammed ‘Mo’ Sameh Haitham Memorial Way in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.
- Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor Memorial Highway in Charlotte County.
- Deputy Sheriff George Pfeil Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Deputy Sheriff Robert Moore Memorial Highway in Seminole County.
- Deputy Sheriff James Cleveland Jacobs Memorial Highway in Seminole County.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.