

SENATE BILL 214

By Tracy

AN ACT to name a bridge in the Town of Smyrna in honor of the late SPC Raymond Neal Mitchell III.

WHEREAS, SPC Raymond Neal Mitchell, III, was born December 30, 1985, in Smyrna, was a 2004 graduate of West Memphis Christian School, and attended Arkansas State University before joining the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, SPC Mitchell was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, at Fort Drum, New York; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Golden Dragons, Charlie Company, and was deployed in August 2006 to serve his country bravely and with honor in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, SPC Mitchell's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge; and

WHEREAS, he sustained fatal wounds during routine security operations in Iraq and died on January 6, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Smyrna wishes not only to acknowledge SPC Mitchell and his valiant service and ultimate sacrifice for his country and his fellow citizens, but also permanently commemorate his life of purpose and commitment by naming a certain bridge in his honor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge located at the intersection of Interstate 24 and State Route 266 (Sam Ridley Parkway) in the Town of Smyrna, Rutherford County is hereby designated as the "SPC Raymond Neal Mitchell III Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "SPC Raymond Neal Mitchell III Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.