

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 Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

BILL: CS/SB 96

INTRODUCER: Transportation Committee and Senator DiCeglie

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations

DATE: April 11, 2023

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Price	Vickers	TR	Fav/CS
2.	Nortelus	Jerrett	ATD	Pre-meeting
3.			FP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 96 creates the following honorary or memorial road and bridge designations:

- The portion of I-275 between mile markers 30 and 31 in Pinellas County as “Deputy Sheriff Michael Hartwick Memorial Highway.”
- The portion of S.R. 87 between E. Bay Boulevard (mile post 2.182) and Bob Tolbert Road (mile post 6.308) in Santa Rosa County as “Sgt. Maj. Thomas Richard “Ric” Landreth Memorial Highway.”
- The portion of Alternate U.S. 19/Bayshore Boulevard between Orange Street and Michigan Boulevard in Pinellas County as “SPC Zachary L. Shannon Memorial Highway.”
- The portion of S.R. 105/Heckscher Drive between New Berlin Road East and Orahod Lane in Duval County as “Officer Scott Eric Bell Highway.”
- The portion of S.R. 9A/East Beltway 295 between Gate Parkway and Baymeadows Road in Duval County as “Officer Christopher Michael Kane Highway.”
- The bridge on Howell Drive over the Ribault River in Duval County as “Coach Gwendolyn Maxwell Bridge to Ribault.”
- Upon completion of construction, the new NASA Causeway Bridge on S.R. 405 over the Indian River in Brevard County as “Dr. Sally Ride Memorial Bridge.”
- The portion of I-95 between mile markers 380 and 381 in Nassau County as “Corporal James McWhorter Memorial Highway.”
- The portion of Cortez Boulevard between U.S. 41 and S.R. 50/50A in Hernando County as “Rush Limbaugh Way.”

- The portion of I-10 between mile markers 222 and 228 in Jefferson County as “Senior Inspector Rita Jane Hall Memorial Highway.”
- The portion of U.S. 19 between C.R. 361/Beach Road and C.R. 30/Foley road in Taylor County as “Michael Scott Williams Parkway.”
- The portion of S.R. 435 between Conroy Road and Vineland Road in Orange County as “Officer Kevin Valencia Memorial Highway.”
- The portion of S.R. 46 between East Lake Mary Boulevard in Seminole County and the Brevard County line as “Deputy Sheriff Eugene ‘Stetson’ Gregory Memorial Highway.”

The estimated cost to the FDOT to install the designation markers required under the bill is \$19,240. See the “Fiscal Impact Statement” below for details.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

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

Deputy Sheriff Michael Hartwick

On September 22, 2022, Pinellas County Deputy Sheriff Michael Hartwick succumbed to injuries he received while working an overnight traffic-directing assignment in a construction zone at I-275 and Ulmerton Road, near the Howard Frankland Bridge. Deputy Hartwick was outside his cruiser when he was struck by a front-end loader hauling concrete barriers. Deputy Hartwick served with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office for 19 years. He was 51 and was survived by his two sons and his mother.⁴

¹ Section 334.071(1), F.S.

² Section 334.071(2), F.S.

³ Section 334.071(3), F.S.

⁴ See odmp.org, [Deputy Sheriff Michael Hartwick, Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office, Florida \(odmp.org\)](https://www.pinellascounty.org/sheriff/press-releases/2022/09/22/Deputy-Sheriff-Michael-Hartwick-Pinellas-County-Sheriff-s-Office-Florida-odmp.org), and [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com), [Florida deputy killed by illegal immigrant in hit-and-run before fleeing scene, sheriff says | Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/florida/2022/09/22/florida-deputy-killed-illegal-immigrant-hit-and-run-before-fleeing-scene-sheriff-says-fox-news) (last visited January 10, 2023).

Sgt. Maj. Thomas Richard “Ric” Landreth

Sergeant Major Thomas Richard “Ric” Landreth, Retired US Army, of Southern Pines, North Carolina, was born on April 1, 1957, at Eglin Air Force Base to the late Thomas and Peggy Landreth. He had over 30 years of military service, including deployments to Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and served in the US Army Special Ops Command until his retirement in 2005. During his tour in Somalia, Sergeant Major Landreth and his squadron were involved in the Battle of Mogadishu in October of 1993, depicted in the “Black Hawk Down” movie in 2001. He passed away on April 25, 2020, after a brief illness. Preceded in death by one son, Sergeant Major Landreth was survived by his wife, three children, one grandchild, and many other family and friends.⁵

SPC Zachary L. Shannon

SPC Zachary L. Shannon of Dunedin was born October 28th, 1991, to Kim and Chip Allison. SPC Shannon, a Black Hawk crew chief, joined the Army in August of 2010 and arrived at the unit in April 2012. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia. This was his first deployment. On March 11, 2013, while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan, SPC Shannon lost his life in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crash. He was 21.⁶

Officer Scott Eric Bell

Officer Scott Eric Bell was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He had been a resident of Jacksonville for over 20 years and was a retired U.S. Navy Chief with 23 years of service. For the last seven years before his death, Officer Bell served as a police officer with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office.⁷ On October 12, 2007, Officer Bell was killed when a vehicle operated by an intoxicated driver pulled out in front of his patrol car. Officer Bell was 50⁸ and was survived by his wife, mother, and brother, as well as other family members.⁹

Officer Christopher Michael Kane

Officer Christopher Kane was a 12-year veteran of the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (JSO), having previously served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He received the JSO’s Lifesaving Award in 2003 for helping to save an officer who was severely injured in a personal watercraft accident. He was also an assistant coach of the championship Pop Warner football team from the Orange Park Athletic Association, the Cyclones, who finished third in the national Championships in

⁵ See findagrave.com, [Thomas Richard Landreth \(1957-2020\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#), and pnj.com, [State Road 87 could be named after Black Hawk Down vet from Santa Rosa \(pnj.com\)](#) (last visited January 25, 2023).

⁶ See fallenheroesproject.org, [Zachary L. Shannon \(fallenheroesproject.org\)](#), and thefallen.militarytimes.com, [Army Spc. Zachary L. Shannon | Military Times](#) (last visited January 10, 2023).

⁷ See legacy.com, [Scott Bell Obituary \(2007\) - Jacksonville, FL - Florida Times-Union \(legacy.com\)](#) (last visited March 13, 2023).

⁸ See odmp.org, [Officer Scott Eric Bell, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Florida \(odmp.org\)](#) (last visited march 13, 2023).

⁹ *Id.*

2007.¹⁰ Officer Kane was killed on September 4, 2008, in a construction zone on Route 9A when his patrol car collided with the back of a semi-truck carrying construction equipment. He was 38 and was survived by his wife and two children.¹¹

Coach Gwendolyn Maxwell

Gwendolyn Maxwell, recognized as one of the most successful girls' track and field coaches in the history of Florida, was a lifelong educator for 36 years and the track and field coach at Ribault High School in Jacksonville for 20 years. Among other accomplishments, Coach Maxwell directed five teams to state titles, was named coach of the year five times, and was the Florida representative for the national track coach of the year three times.¹² She was inducted into the Ribault Athletic Hall of Fame in October of 2018, as well as the Florida Athletics Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1995. Coach Maxwell passed away on June 16, 2020, at the age of 86, after a nearly decade-long battle with Alzheimer's.¹³

Dr. Sally Ride

In 1977, Dr. Sally Ride was one of only six women selected for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Astronaut Class of 1978. On June 18, 1983, Dr. Ride became the first American woman in space, and at the age of 32, the youngest American in space as one of five crew members aboard the space shuttle Challenger STS-7. Dr. Ride returned to space on October 5, 1984, aboard another shuttle mission, the STS-41G, and continued working for NASA until 1987. Dr. Ride was passionate about improving science and mathematics education and helping young women and girls foster an interest in science. Dr. Ride passed away on July 23, 2012, after a 17-month battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 61.¹⁴

Corporal James McWhorter

Officer James McWhorter was hired by the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) in January 2019 and sponsored through the law enforcement academy at the Florida Gateway College Public Safety Training Center where he graduated and was certified in June 2019. Officer McWhorter died in the line of duty in a vehicle crash near the Agricultural Inspection Station on I-95 in Yulee on February 12, 2022, when he was struck by an oncoming vehicle while crossing from the northbound inspection station to the southbound station. He had served with the FDACS for 2 ½ years, was 31 years old, and was survived by his four children and fiancée. Officer McWhorter was posthumously promoted to Corporal.¹⁵

¹⁰ See legacy.com, [Christopher Kane Obituary \(2008\) - Jacksonville, FL - Florida Times-Union \(legacy.com\)](#) (last visited March 13, 2023).

¹¹ See odmp.org, [Officer Christopher Michael Kane, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Florida \(odmp.org\)](#) (last visited March 13, 2023).

¹² See Pepper, C., news4jax.com, [Legendary Ribault track coach Gwendolyn Maxwell dies at 86 \(news4jax.com\)](#) (last visited March 13, 2023).

¹³ See Frenette, G., Jacksonville.com, [Gwendolyn Maxwell, state championship track coach at Ribault, dies at 86 \(jacksonville.com\)](#) (last visited March 13, 2023).

¹⁴ See womenshistory.org, [Sally Ride \(womenshistory.org\)](#), and sallyridesience.ucsd.edu, [Dr. Sally Ride – Sally Ride Science \(ucsd.edu\)](#) (last visited January 25, 2023).

¹⁵ See FDACS email to committee staff dated February 1, 2023 (on file in the Senate Transportation Committee).

Rush Limbaugh

Florida resident Rush Limbaugh was a U.S. radio personality and political commentator. Former President Trump awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.¹⁶ He was once ranked fourth on Forbes' list of most generous celebrities, having donated \$4.2 million to the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation.¹⁷ Mr. Limbaugh passed away on February 17, 2021, following a battle with cancer. He was 70 years old.¹⁸

Senior Inspector Rita Jane Hall

Rita Jane Hall devoted her career to the service and protection of others. She served with the Tallahassee Police Department from 1988 – 1994, and with the Monticello Police Department from 1997 – 2000, holding the position of Fugitive Unit Coordinator. Ms. Hall also served with the Emergency Action Center, which coordinates emergency responses for all Florida correctional facilities. More recently, she held the position of Senior Inspector for the Office of the Inspector General, Department of Corrections. Ms. Hall passed unexpectedly on December 27th, 2018.¹⁹

Deputy Michael Scott Williams

Deputy Michael Scott Williams served as a City of Brooksville Police Officer from 2005 to 2012, prior to moving to Steinhatchee. He served for 17 months with the Taylor County Sheriff's Office.²⁰ During his law enforcement career, he received numerous certifications in various law enforcement fields of studies, including Traffic Law Enforcement, Advanced Interviews and Interrogations, Community Policing, Field Training, and Drug Investigations. Deputy Williams was praised for his professionalism and dedication by members of the public.²¹ On Monday, October 31, 2016, while serving with the Taylor County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Williams was killed in a vehicle collision with a logging truck at the Intersection of U.S. 98 and U.S. 19.²²

Officer Kevin Valencia

Born in Queens, New York, on April 16, 1991, Kevin Valencia honorably served the Doral Police Department from 2014 to 2016. He began his career with the Orlando Police Department in 2016, earning numerous awards, including two life-saving awards. On June 11, 2018, Officer Valencia was shot during a domestic violence incident and spent almost the next three years fighting in rehabilitation facilities in Atlanta, Georgia, and Mt. Dora, Florida. On March 15, 2021, Officer Valencia succumbed to the injuries sustained during the domestic violence incident

¹⁶ See [nbcnews.com, Trump giving Rush Limbaugh the Medal of Freedom was controversial — and fitting \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/trump-giving-rush-limbaugh-the-medal-of-freedom-was-controversial-and-fitting-nbcnews.com) (last visited March 13, 2023).

¹⁷ See [cnn.com, Rush Limbaugh, conservative media icon, dead at 70 following battle with cancer | CNN Business](https://www.cnn.com/business/rush-limbaugh-conservative-media-icon-dead-at-70-following-battle-with-cancer) (last visited March 13, 2023).

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ See [tallahassee.com, Rita Jane Hall Obituary - Tallahassee Democrat](https://tallahassee.com/news/rita-jane-hall-obituary-tallahassee-democrat) (last visited March 13, 2023).

²⁰ See [archive.bluelivesmatter.blue, Officer Down: Hero Michael Scott Williams Killed In Crash - Blue Lives Matter](https://archive.bluelivesmatter.blue/officer-down-hero-michael-scott-williams-killed-in-crash-blue-lives-matter) (lasts visited March 13, 2023).

²¹ See email to committee staff dated March 13, 2023 (on file in the Senate Transportation Committee).

²² *Supra* note 20.

in Tavares, Florida. He was survived by his wife, his two young sons, and many other relatives and friends.²³

Deputy Sheriff Eugene Gregory

Deputy Sheriff Eugene Gregory served the Seminole County Sheriff's Office for seven years. Deputy Gregory was shot and killed after responding to a shots-fired call on July 8, 1998, while handling an aggravated assault call involving an armed, mentally ill person. He is said to have exemplified the spirit of community policing in his day-to-day service, prompting the Sheriff's Office to take a proactive role in mental health intervention and treatment. Deputy Gregory was 55 years old at the time of his death. He was survived by his wife and three children.²⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

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

- The portion of I-275 between mile markers 30 and 31 in Pinellas County as "Deputy Sheriff Michael Hartwick Memorial Highway."
- The portion of S.R. 87 between E. Bay Boulevard (mile post 2.182) and Bob Tolbert Road (mile post 6.308) in Santa Rosa County as "Sgt. Maj. Thomas Richard 'Ric' Landreth Memorial Highway."
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- The portion of S.R. 105/Heckscher Drive between New Berlin Road East and Orahod Lane in Duval County as "Officer Scott Eric Bell Highway."
- The portion of S.R. 9A/East Beltway 295 between Gate Parkway and Baymeadows Road in Duval County as "Officer Christopher Michael Kane Highway."
- The bridge on Howell Drive over the Ribault River in Duval County as "Coach Gwendolyn Maxwell Bridge to Ribault."
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- The portion of S.R. 46 between East Lake Mary Boulevard in Seminole County and the Brevard County line as "Deputy Sheriff Eugene 'Stetson' Gregory Memorial Highway."

²³ See legacy.com, *Kevin Valencia*, [Kevin Valencia Obituary \(1991 - 2021\) - Orlando, FL - Orlando Sentinel \(legacy.com\)](#) (last visited March 13, 2023).

²⁴ See seminolsheriff.org, [In Memoriam \(seminolsheriff.org\)](#), and odmp.org, [Deputy Sheriff Eugene Andrew Gregory, Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Florida \(odmp.org\)](#) (last visited March 17, 2023).

The bill directs the FDOT to erect suitable markers.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

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 identified.

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 \$19,240 , 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 \$740 each. 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 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 Transportation on March 20, 2023:

The committee substitute adds the following designations to the bill:

- “Sgt. Maj. Thomas Richard ‘Ric’ Landreth Memorial Highway” in Santa Rosa County.
- “SPC Zachary L. Shannon Memorial Highway” in Pinellas County.
- “Officer Scott Eric Bell Highway” in Duval County.
- “Officer Christopher Michael Kane Highway” in Duval County.
- “Coach Gwendolyn Maxwell Bridge to Ribault” in Duval County.
- “Dr. Sally Ride Memorial Bridge” in Brevard County.
- “Corporal James McWhorter Memorial Highway” in Nassau County.
- “Rush Limbaugh Way” in Hernando County.
- “Senior Inspector Rita Jane Hall Memorial Highway” in Jefferson County.
- “Michael Scott Williams Parkway” in Taylor County.
- “Officer Kevin Valencia Memorial Highway” in Orange County.
- “Deputy Sheriff Eugene ‘Stetson’ Gregory Memorial Highway” in Seminole and Volusia counties.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.