

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019

HR 1019

4
5 By: Representative L. Johnson
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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO REQUEST A BRIDGE ON ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY 10 IN
9 SEBASTIAN COUNTY BE DESIGNATED THE "SSG JUSTIN
10 "DUTCH" ESTES MEMORIAL BRIDGE".
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13 **Subtitle**

14 TO REQUEST A BRIDGE ON ARKANSAS STATE
15 HIGHWAY 10 IN SEBASTIAN COUNTY BE
16 DESIGNATED THE "SSG JUSTIN "DUTCH" ESTES
17 MEMORIAL BRIDGE".
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20 WHEREAS, Mr. Justin M. Estes, Staff Sergeant in the United States Army,
21 was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while
22 serving with Company C, 2d Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3d
23 Brigade Combat Team, 82d Airborne Division, on March 5, 2007, while on combat
24 patrol operations during Operation Iraqi-Freedom; and
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26 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Estes distinguished himself by conspicuous
27 gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call
28 of duty while serving as a Squad Leader during a complex improvised explosive
29 device attack in the city of Samarra, Iraq; and
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31 WHEREAS, without hesitation and aware of the imminent danger posed, not
32 only by the flames and exploding ordnance but also by secondary improvised
33 explosive devices, Staff Sergeant Estes ran through the inferno to render
34 medical aid and feverishly attempted to save lives, providing medical care
35 until the platoon medic arrived; and Staff Sergeant Estes then took charge of
36 the combat lifesaver team and began moving casualties out of the wreckage and



1 flames to receive treatment; and

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3 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Estes provided calm and decisive leadership at
4 the detonation site, directing the continuing search for paratroopers
5 affected by the blast even as ammunition went off around him; and having
6 cleared the casualties from the fire, and with his equipment literally
7 melting from the intense heat, Staff Sergeant Estes remained as he called the
8 stretcher teams forward, but the imminent danger at which Staff Sergeant
9 Estes had placed himself in order to save the lives of his comrades was
10 realized when he was engulfed in a cloud of smoke and debris as a secondary
11 improvised explosive device detonated directly underneath his feet, killing
12 him instantly; and

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14 WHEREAS, in the ultimate act of bravery and selfless service to his
15 comrades in which he gave his own life, Staff Sergeant Estes attempted to
16 save the lives of 5 of his comrades; and by his undaunted courage, intrepid
17 fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Staff Sergeant Estes
18 gallantly gave his life for his country, upholding the highest traditions of
19 military heroism and reflecting distinct credit upon himself, Task Force Two
20 Panther, Task Force Lightning, and the United States Army; and

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22 WHEREAS, to honor Staff Sergeant Estes' gallantry in action against an
23 enemy of the United States, it is appropriate that the bridge east of
24 Greenwood City Hall and just past the Sebastian County Coal Miners Memorial
25 on Arkansas State Highway 10 be named the "SSG Justin "Dutch" Estes Memorial
26 Bridge",

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28 NOW THEREFORE,

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
30 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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32 THAT the House of Representatives request the Arkansas Department of
33 Transportation name the bridge east of Greenwood City Hall and just past the
34 Sebastian County Coal Miners Memorial on Arkansas State Highway 10 the "SSG
35 Justin "Dutch" Estes Memorial Bridge" and erect appropriate signs to reflect
36 the designation.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of the resolution shall be presented to Ms. Diane Salyers and the Director of State Highways and Transportation of the Arkansas Department of Transportation by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.