

HB 1337 -- MEMORIAL HIGHWAY DESIGNATION

SPONSOR: Fitzwater

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill designates the portion of State Route U from the intersection of Province Road to the intersection of State Highway 8 in Washington County as the "Thomas Wesley Benoist Memorial Highway." The Department of Transportation must erect and maintain the appropriate signs with the cost to be paid for by private donations.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Thomas Wesley Benoist was a pioneer in early aviation as a pilot, flight instructor, air craft designer, and manufacturer and most deserving of this recognition. Aviation historians rank him as the fourth most important person in early American aviation. He opened the first aviation school in St. Louis and planned and executed the very first parachute jump in St. Louis County in 1912.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fitzwater and Chuck Benoist.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.