

Legislative Analysis



LCPL MICHAEL W. HANKS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4189 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Jason Woolford
Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure
Complete to 5-22-25

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4189 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the bridge on South Grand Avenue over highway I-96 in the village of Fowlerville as the "LCpl Michael W. Hanks Memorial Bridge."

Subject to section 2 of the act (described below), a sign would have to be placed at the approach of the bridge on highway I-96 designating the location of the "LCpl Michael W. Hanks Memorial Bridge."

The state transportation department would have to coordinate with the Livingston County Road Commission in placing an appropriate sign at each approach of the bridge on South Grand Avenue designating the location of the "LCpl Michael W. Hanks Memorial Bridge."

Proposed MCL 250.2051

BACKGROUND:

According to committee testimony and the togetherweserved website, Michael W. Hanks was born October 7, 1982, to Michael L. and Karen Hanks in Howell, Michigan. Michael attended Fowlerville Community Schools, where he participated in baseball and was a member of the high school wrestling team. Although he was technically from Gregory, Fowlerville was always considered home. During his teenage years, Michael set his goals on the military, focusing on the Marine Corps and the illustrious title of "The Few and The Proud."

Michael joined the Marine Corps on January 30, 2001, and attended recruit training with 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), Parris Island, South Carolina, graduating on April 27, 2001.

On July 11, 2001, he joined 3rd Battalion 1st Marines as a rifleman with 1st Platoon, Lima Company. On June 3, 2002, Lance Cpl. Hanks was attached to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, where he participated in operations Infinite Moonlight, in Jordan, and Eager Mace, in Kuwait. Upon returning from deployment on December 16, 2002, Lance Cpl. Hanks was redeployed to Iraq from January 15 to May 23, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Also in May, he received a formal commendation from the Marine Corps for saving the life of an Iraqi civilian. After returning home, Michael's devotion to his fellow Marines and his deep belief in the mission of liberating the Iraqi people led him to volunteer for his second tour.

On June 18, 2004, Lance Cpl. Hanks was deployed to Iraq in support of Iraqi Freedom II, where he served as Fire Team Leader. During this tour, he distinguished himself as a leader

throughout many combat operations in Fallujah. On two occasions in particular he exposed himself to enemy fire in disregard of his own safety to save a fellow Marine.

On November 17, 2004, during an intense firefight, Lance Cpl. Hanks charged a heavily fortified enemy position and was wounded. He died of his injuries. He was 22 years old.

He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. His other military awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with "V" for Valor, National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terror Medal.

Designating the bridge on South Grand Avenue over highway I-96 in the village of Fowlerville as the "LCpl Michael W. Hanks Memorial Bridge" would be an appropriate way to recognize and honor his dedication, commitment, and sacrifice.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Section 2 of the Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the state transportation department shall provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the name of the highway only "when sufficient private contributions are received to completely cover the cost of erecting and maintaining those markers." As a result, the bill has no state or local fiscal impact.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (4-29-25)

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