

Hello, Chairman Green and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee.

My name is Dodie Rogers Patterson. I am the youngest daughter of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

I am writing in support of House Bill No. 311, naming the portion of the road known as State Route 348 as Roy Rogers Happy Trails Highway.

My father, born Leonard Slye, was raised outside of Portsmouth, in Duck Run. He and his father worked in downtown Portsmouth. This is where he learned many of his work ethics, responsibilities and the principle of neighbor helping neighbor. In fact, the family was able to help during the flood of 1913, when they put their houseboat to use by rescuing many people, animals and possessions.

Through the years Roy Rogers not only gained celebrity status as King of the Cowboys, but also became a man the world would come to know and look up to. Many would claim him as a second father, orphans and the infirm would be given a little light in their lives when he paid them a visit. I could go on but there are books about his life and incidentally, they all mention Portsmouth as his home town.

He loved this town and often visited. Many of his relatives are buried here, including his sister, Cleda Slye Willoughby. I know the town is proud of him as noted on the famous mural wall and the signed star on the opposite side. I have enjoyed coming back to represent the family at the Roy Rogers Festival in downtown Portsmouth.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider this way of recognizing one of Portsmouth's own.

Sincerely,

Dodie Rogers Patterson