



State Representative Susan Manchester  
House Bill 191  
Sponsor Testimony  
House Transportation and Public Safety Committee  
April 30, 2019

Good morning Chairman Green, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 191, which designates the SGT Charles Gregory Huston Memorial Highway.

In 1968, Sergeant First Class Huston of the US Army Special Forces was listed as “Missing in Action” in Vietnam. His remains were never recovered and he is the only citizen from Shelby County whose status remains unknown. This past year marked the 50th anniversary of the mission, where Sergeant First Class Huston’s unit came under attack.

This is his story, as told by Task Force Omega, a non-profit POW / MIA organization dedicated to the full accounting and return of all prisoners of war and those missing in action. On March 28, 1968, Sergeant First Class Huston, Sergeant First Class George Brown, Sergeant Alan Boyer, and 8 South Vietnamese troops, were conducting a reconnaissance patrol in an area of eastern Laos that was well known for its heavy enemy activity. As the patrol traveled through the jungle approximately 10 miles northwest of the city of Tchepone, it came into contact with an enemy force of an unknown size. When they realized they were outnumbered, the team requested to be immediately extracted by helicopter. As they tried to escape, the helicopter came under heavy automatic weapons fire, causing the ladder to break. All 3 Americans were alive and defending their position on the ground as the helicopter departed. Three days later, a search and rescue team arrived at the ambush site and searched for 6 hours, failing to find any evidence of the men. All 3 men, Alan Boyer, George Brown, and Shelby County’s Greg Huston were listed as Missing in Action.

Sergeant First Class Greg Huston was among nearly 600 Americans who disappeared in Laos. His family, like many throughout our country, has been deprived of closure. Sergeant First Class Huston fought bravely for the United States and while we cannot heal the hearts of those who knew him, we can honor his memory with House Bill 191.

I am humbled for the opportunity to introduce this legislation, which will preserve the memory and bravery of Sergeant First Class Huston. My office has received letters of support from the Shelby County Board of County Commissioners, Sidney American Legion Post 217, American Legion Scherer Post 493, Sidney Mayor Mike Barhorst, Sergeant First Class Huston’s family, and 7 other members of the Shelby County community. With 2019 being the year of the Shelby County Bicentennial, there is no better time to recognize Sergeant First Class Huston through the SGT Charles Gregory Huston Memorial Highway.

Additionally, after the incident, and receiving the status of MIA, the U.S. Army promoted Greg Huston to Sergeant First Class (SFC). Therefore, today, I will also propose a simple amendment to the bill, which will reflect this promotion by changing the highway title to the SFC Charles Gregory Huston Memorial Highway.

Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to testify. I welcome your questions.