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**THE STATE SENATE**  
**Thursday, March 25, 2004**

**ENGROSSED**  
**House Concurrent**  
**Resolution No. 1053**

ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1053 - By: ROAN, ADAIR, ADKINS, ARMES, ASKINS, BALKMAN, BENGE, BLACKBURN, BLACKWELL, BONNY, BOREN, BRADDOCK, BRANNON, CALVEY, CAREY, CARGILL, CASE, CLAUNCH, COLEMAN, COVEY, COX, DANK, DAVIS, DEUTSCHENDORF, DeWITT, DORMAN, EASLEY, EDDINS, ELLIS, ERICSON, ERWIN, FERGUSON, GILBERT, GRAVES, GREENWOOD, HAMILTON, HARRISON, HASTINGS, HEFNER, HIETT, HILLIARD, HUTCHISON, INGMIRE, JONES, KIRBY, LAMONS, LANGMACHER, LEIST, LINDLEY, LIOTTA, MADDUX, MASS, McCARTER, McCLAIN, McINTYRE, MILLER (Doug), MILLER (Ray), MITCHELL, MORGAN (Danny), MORGAN (Fred), NANCE, NATIONS, NEWPORT, O'NEAL, PAULK, PERRY, PETERS, PETERSON (Pam), PETERSON (Ron), PETTIGREW, PHILLIPS, PIATT, PLUNK, POPE, REYNOLDS, RICE, ROBERTS, ROGGOW, SMALIGO, SMITH, SMITHSON, STAGGS, STANLEY, STEELE, SULLIVAN, SWEEDEN, TAYLOR, TIBBS, TOURE, TREBILCOCK, TURNER, TYLER, VAUGHN, WALKER, WELLS, WILSON, WILT, WINCHESTER, WORTHEN, WRIGHT and YOUNG of the House and GUMM of the Senate.

A Concurrent Resolution designating the LCDR Clarence O. "Smokey" Tolbert Memorial Highway; directing the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to place permanent markers; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Clarence Orfield Tolbert was born on June 4, 1939, in Tishomingo, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Clarence O. Tolbert through admirable self-discipline and dedication graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1962 and received his naval wings in 1964 and would obtain a ranking of Lieutenant Commander for the United States Navy; and

(Bold face denotes Committee Amendments)

1           WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander Clarence O. Tolbert embarked upon  
2 his honorable service to this great nation by dutifully reporting to  
3 VA 125 where he familiarized himself with the "A4 Skyhawk" and then  
4 accepted his assignment to VA 216, also known as the "Black  
5 Diamonds," where he continued to hone his flight skills by making  
6 two combat cruises to Vietnam aboard the USS Hancock and one  
7 Mediterranean cruise aboard the USS Saratoga. He would go on to  
8 compile an astonishing 174 combat missions and in excess of 500  
9 carrier landings; and

10           WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander Clarence O. Tolbert was  
11 appropriately recognized and honored with numerous medals and awards  
12 for his outstanding service. Among those honors were the Silver  
13 Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, 14 Air Medals, the Navy  
14 Commendation Medal, the Navy Unit Citation, and the Vietnamese  
15 Service and Campaign Medals; and

16           WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander Clarence O. Tolbert was recognized  
17 by his peers for his superior flying skills and would become a  
18 member of the Blue Angels Navy Flight Demonstration Team; and

19           WHEREAS, On November 6, 1972, Lieutenant Commander Clarence O.  
20 Tolbert would eventually lay down his life for this country after  
21 courageously taking an assignment named Attack Squadron 56 on board  
22 the aircraft carrier USS Midway. Commander Tolbert launched his A7B  
23 "Corsair" on a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam. The

1 aircraft sustained damage to the starboard wing as a result of heavy  
2 anti-aircraft fire. Commander Tolbert then maneuvered the aircraft  
3 to the favorable evasion route by heading toward the coast. After a  
4 fire and continual loss of fuel, the aircraft impacted in a flat  
5 spin; and

6 WHEREAS, a vigilant search and rescue effort was initiated, but  
7 was to no avail due to lack of visual or voice contact. A  
8 Vietnamese newspaper report noted the downing of the United States  
9 aircraft and the ejection of the pilot, but reported that the  
10 parachute did not open, nevertheless, Commander Tolbert was  
11 classified as "Missing In Action"; and

12 WHEREAS, almost 16 agonizing years to the day, the Vietnamese  
13 government notified the United States government of their  
14 "discovery" of the remains of Lieutenant Commander Clarence O.  
15 Tolbert, yet denied knowledge of Commander Tolbert's fate even  
16 though their soldiers had an eyewitness account of the ejection and  
17 exact location of impact.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
19 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE  
20 CONCURRING THEREIN:

21 THAT the portion of highway on State Highway 7 extending from  
22 the intersection of State Highway 7 and State Highway 99 to the

1 intersection of State Highway 7 and State Highway 1 be designated  
2 the LCDR Clarence O. "Smokey" Tolbert Memorial Highway.

3 THAT the Oklahoma Department of Transportation shall cause  
4 permanent suitable markers to be placed upon the highway bearing the  
5 name.

6 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Secretary  
7 of Transportation Phil Tomlinson and the Director of Transportation  
8 Gary Ridley, to the members of the State Transportation Commission,  
9 and to E.J. and Bobby Tolbert.

10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, dated 3-23-04 - DO  
11 PASS.