



- That portion of S.W. 59th Avenue in Miami-Dade County from S.W. 80th Street to S.W. 72nd Street is designated as “American Legion Way.”
- That portion of Opa-locka Boulevard/N.W. 135th Street in Miami-Dade County between N.W. 7th Avenue and N.W. 47th Avenue is designated as “Honorable Robert B. Ingram, Ph.D., Boulevard.”
- That portion of West Flagler Street in Miami-Dade County between 13th Avenue and 14th Avenue is designated as “Father Emilio Vallina Avenue.”
- That portion of N.W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street between 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Bishop Victor Tyrone Curry Boulevard.”
- That portion of U.S. Highway 19/98 (State Road 55) and U.S. Alternate 27 (State Road 500) in front of the Chiefland High School is designated as the “United States Army Specialist Tyler Thorsen Memorial Highway.”
- That portion of Edgewood Avenue in Duval County between Beaver Street and Roosevelt Boulevard is designated as “John E. Andrews Boulevard.”
- That portion of Wilson Boulevard in Duval County between I-295 South and Old Middleburg Road is designated as “George Matthews Boulevard.”
- That portion of New Kings Road in Duval County between Davis Street and Myrtle Avenue is designated as “Angela Webb Hammonds Boulevard.”
- That portion of Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard in Duval County between Myrtle Avenue and Moncrief Road is designated as “Willie F. Faust Boulevard.”
- That portion of Edgewood Avenue West between Avenue B and Moncrief Road is designated as “James H. Argrett Avenue.”
- That portion of State Road 72 in Sarasota County from a point immediately east of I-75 to the entrance of the National Veterans Cemetery in Sarasota is designated as “Veteran’s Memorial Parkway.”
- That portion of SR 789/Gulf Stream Avenue between Sunset Drive and Bird Key Drive in Sarasota County is designated as the “Gil Waters Bridge.”
- The Regional Transportation Management Center in Fort Myers is designated the “Joseph P. Bertrand Building.”
- The CS also amends section 589.19, Florida Statutes, and names the state forest managed by the Division of Forestry in Seminole County (now known as the Little Big Econ State Forest) as the Charles H. Bronson State Forest.

## II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides: (1) Legislative designations of transportation facilities are for honorary or memorial purposes, or to distinguish a particular facility, and may not be construed to require any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes; (2) When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated by the law creating the designation, and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility; and (3) The FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or

county, resolutions supporting the designations must be passed by each affected local government prior to the erection of the markers.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The effects of the CS are as follows:

**Section 1:** The CS designates that portion of State Road 44 in Lake County from County Road 46A east to the county line is designated as the “Major Claude A. Gnann Memorial Highway.” Major Claude Gnann served with the Lake County Sheriff’s Office for 28 years, rising from a civilian employee to second in command before his retirement. Gnann was reputed to never really be off duty, often showing up at problems he heard on his scanner and was known as a person who would always help people, doing such things as changing light bulbs for the elderly. Gnann grew up in Cassia in east Lake County and his mother’s family was among the first homesteaders in Lake County 130 years ago. Gnann dreamed of sailing the world in his boat with his wife Linda, but suffered a sudden and fatal heart attack in Grenada.

**Section 2:** That portion of State Road 44 in Lake County from County Road 439 east to County Road 46A is designated as the “Deputy Wayne Koester Memorial Highway.” Deputy Sheriff Wayne Koester was ambushed after responding to a call in the Lake Kathryn area by a shotgun-wielding suspect, who struck Koester with a blast. Koester continued to engage the suspect in a firefight, and while critically wounded and aware his fellow deputies had both received injuries, made his way to his vehicle for his shotgun before receiving a second, and fatal, blast. Koester fought for his life and the life of his fellow deputies, demonstrating the highest standards of what is expected of a Law Enforcement Officer. He had served less than a year with the Lake County Sheriff’s Office, and for 8 years prior as a Sergeant with the Umatilla Police Department. Koester served his community in other ways as well, mobilizing with his National Guard unit to respond to the hurricanes that hit the state in 2004. He demonstrated pride, dedication, and a willingness to help others in any way possible.

**Section 3:** That portion of U.S. Highway 441 between County Road 318 and NW 193rd Street in Marion County is designated as the “Lt. Colonel Robert T. Heagy, Jr. Memorial Highway.” Lt. Colonel Heagy served for 31 and one half years of military service in the U.S. Air Force, and was very active in the community through the Veteran’s of Foreign Wars, the Lion’s Club and the Masonic Lodge. He and his family owned and operated Heagy Fishing Camp in Orange Lake for many years and his mother, Mrs. Mattie Heagy, donated land to Marion County for the Heagy-Burry Park in Orange Lake.

**Section 4:** That portion of U.S. 1 in Miami-Dade County from S.W. 184th Street to S.W. 112th Avenue, inclusive, is designated as “Cutler Bay Boulevard.” The Town of Cutler Bay was formed in November 2005 and is the newest incorporated municipality in Miami-Dade County. Population estimates developed by the University of Florida show a population for 2007 of over 40,000 residents. The Town limits are generally on the north, SW 184<sup>th</sup> Street (Eureka Drive), on the west, east of the Busway to the coast, and to the south, north of 232rd St., and on the east, the Biscayne Bay National Park, forming a Town of approximately 10 square miles. Since incorporation, Cutler Bay has made a commitment to Smart Green Growth policies that support a greener Town. Some things that the Town has already done include adopting the design

guidelines that implement the Old Cutler Road public meetings, creating the big box ordinance, holding site plan workshops and soon the Town will be adopting the first Growth Management Plan. Community outreach and involvement are a priority in Cutler Bay.

**Section 5:** That portion of U.S. 1 in Miami-Dade County from S.W. 136th Street to S.W. 184th Street, inclusive, is designated as “Palmetto Bay Boulevard.” Incorporated on September 10, 2002, the Village of Palmetto Bay is the 33rd municipality in Miami-Dade County. The Village extends from the centerline of S.W. 136th Street, south to the centerline of S.W. 184th Street, expanding west to the centerline of South Dixie Highway, including the center island, and east to Biscayne Bay. The Village of Palmetto Bay is a vibrant community of more than 25,000 residents who enjoy its beautiful surroundings and family-oriented atmosphere. The Village has succeeded in building community character by creating a distinct community identity through the installation of new street signs and completing traffic & beautification projects, improving customer service and facilitating access to government services, building a better police force, and improving and expanding Village park facilities for the enjoyment of all residents, dubbing us the "Village of Parks." Village residents enjoy an extensive park system comprised of six park facilities, and the commercial corridor along South Dixie Highway is easily and quickly accessible from any location within Village limits.

**Section 6:** That portion of S.W. 59th Avenue in Miami-Dade County from S.W. 80th Street to S.W. 72nd Street is designated as “American Legion Way.” American Legion Post #31 has been in the same location on S.W. 59th Avenue for over 63 years. The Post serves veterans through the V.A. hospital, providing clothes, personal items, and other things, and helps the city of South Miami with Toys for Tots and food for the needy during the Holidays. The Post has over 400 members who have served our country to protect our rights and keep our country free. Post #31 gives high school students medals for outstanding achievement in scholastic honors and ROTC. The Post also sends boys and girls to Boys and Girl’s State in Tallahassee.

**Section 7:** That portion of Opa-locka Boulevard/N.W. 135th Street in Miami-Dade County between N.W. 7th Avenue and N.W. 47th Avenue is designated as “Honorable Robert B. Ingram, Ph.D., Boulevard.” A Miami pioneer who left behind a string of firsts, Ingram became the first African American officer at the City of Miami downtown police station, the first African American motorcycle police officer and the first elected mayor of the City of Opa-locka. He was also elected Dade County School Board. Many considered Ingram the dean of African American elected officials in Miami-Dade County.

**Section 8:** That portion of West Flagler Street in Miami-Dade County between 13th Avenue and 14th Avenue is designated as “Father Emilio Vallina Avenue.” Father Vallina was a spiritual leader and a true public servant to the under privileged families for Miami-Dade County. He is known for his assistance to the uninsured.

**Section 9:** That portion of N.W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street between 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Bishop Victor Tyrone Curry Boulevard.” Bishop Curry is one of Miami’s religious and community leaders. Bishop Curry, whose numerous contributions have been significant and permanent, has been tabbed as one of the 100 most powerful people in Miami.

**Section 10:** That portion of U.S. Highway 19/98 (State Road 55) and U.S. Alternate 27 (State Road 500) in front of the Chiefland High School is designated as the “United States Army Specialist Tyler Thorsen Memorial Highway.” Specialist Thorsen volunteered to serve the United States of America by enlisting in the United States Army, where he served with honor in Iraq. He left the comfort of his homeland to fight in a foreign land to ensure the comfort, safety and freedom for the citizens of the United States of America. Specialist Thorsen was killed in Iraq on September 15, 2007.

**Section 11:** That portion of Edgewood Avenue in Duval County between Beaver Street and Roosevelt Boulevard is designated as “John E. Andrews Boulevard.” Mr. Andrews is known as one of Jacksonville’s most dedicated health administrators. He also served as CEO of the NBA Florida Christian Center, a major Jacksonville nursing home complex.

**Section 12:** That portion of Wilson Boulevard in Duval County between I-295 South and Old Middleburg Road is designated as “George Matthews Boulevard.” Mr. Matthews is known as an inspirational community leader who served as a distinguished pastor to worshippers in North Florida and South Georgia for over 40 years.

**Section 13:** That portion of New Kings Road in Duval County between Davis Street and Myrtle Avenue is designated as “Angela Webb Hammonds Boulevard.” Angela Hammonds is known as a dynamic leader and teacher who took the Northeast Florida Area Local Postal Workers Union from a one man band to a well tuned orchestra. She served as Chief Steward on Tour I for three years and president for 12 years. She was dedicated, loyal to the American Postal Workers Union, and committed to the people she represented.

**Section 14:** That portion of Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard in Duval County between Myrtle Avenue and Moncrief Road is designated as “Willie F. Faust Boulevard.” Faust is known as a leader in the religious community and civic community. He united not just churches in Church of God In Christ, but of other denominations as well. Many of the largest ministries in Jacksonville grow out from Elder Faust.

**Section 15:** That portion of Edgewood Avenue West between Avenue B and Moncrief Road is designated as “James H. Argrett Avenue.” Argrett is known as a retired teacher, principal and community leader. Mr. Argrett served the Duval County Public School System for over 35 years. In addition to the school system he taught extension classes during the summer at FAMU’s Monticello and Madison campus, and at Florida Memorial College West Augustine campus.

**Section 16:** That portion of State Road 72 in Sarasota County from a point immediately east of I-75 to the entrance of the National Veterans Cemetery in Sarasota is designated as “Veteran’s Memorial Parkway.” Florida’s Congressional Delegation has acquired land and appropriations from the US Department of Veterans Affairs to construct three new National Cemeteries in Florida to accommodate our aging veteran population. The second national cemetery will be in Sarasota County and will be open for internments in October of 2008. The other cemeteries are located in Palm Beach County and Jacksonville.

**Section 17:** That portion of SR 789/Gulf Stream Avenue between Sunset Drive and Bird Key Drive in Sarasota County is designated as the “Gil Waters Bridge.” Gil Waters has been a

resident of Sarasota continually since 1950, and was instrumental in ensuring the building of a new bridge for Bird key replacing an outdated drawbridge. The Florida Department of Transportation's proposed fixed-span bridge aroused some local opposition. However, Waters published an ad in the Sarasota paper, depicting the type of replacement bridge proposed to be built, and invited Sarasota area residents to send in their votes to him, which were overwhelmingly positive. Mr. Waters organized a meeting of the public that resulted in the formation of the Good Bridge Group, to which 900 members subscribed and sent in contributions to defend the high bridge proposal by FDOT. His group also intervened in legal challenges which ultimately denied the challenges to the Bridge. The bridge was built, and afterwards Mr. Waters worked with the landscape consultant for the bridge approaches and personally contributed \$200,00 for the project.

**Section 18:** The Regional Transportation Management Center in Fort Myers is designated the "Joseph P. Bertrand Building." Corporal Bertrand was shot by a traffic violator he suspected was under the influence, on State Road 80 in Ft. Myers. He had served the citizens of Florida, with the Florida Highway Patrol, for 16 years. His career with FHP began August 26, 1951. He was stationed in Pahokee, Homestead, Miami, Pinellas Park, and Fort Myers. At the time of his death, he was 46.

**Section 19:** Amends section 589.19, Florida Statutes, and names the state forest managed by the Division of Forestry in Seminole County (now known as the Little Big Econ State Forest) as the Charles H. Bronson State Forest. Charles H. Bronson, a fifth-generation Floridian, serves as Florida's 10th Agriculture Commissioner, managing the largest state Department of Agriculture in the country with more than 3,700 employees. Initially appointed to the position in May 2001 to fill the unexpired term of the outgoing Commissioner, Bronson was elected to the post in a statewide election in November 2002, and re-elected in November 2006. In addition to heading Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bronson serves on the Florida Cabinet. Born into a ranching family in Kissimmee in 1949, Bronson comes from a family that traces its long agricultural roots to 1635 as each generation of the family has been in farming since that date. He has received numerous honors and awards including an FFA Honorary National Degree for outstanding personal commitment, a Nature Conservancy Legislative Leadership Appreciation Award, a Florida Farm Bureau Legislative Award, and both Florida Sheriff's and Florida Police Chief Association's Legislative Awards.

**Section 20:** An effective date of July 1, 2008 is provided.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None

C. Government Sector Impact:

FDOT estimates the cost to erect suitable road designating markers is \$14,000 (\$400 per marker). The expenditure will come from the State Transportation Trust Fund. FDOT is also responsible for any future maintenance and replacement cost, which is indeterminate.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**By Transportation on 4/8/2008:**

The CS added 14 road designations, one bridge designation, one building designation, and one state forest designation.

B. Amendments:

None.