

SENATE BILL 650

By Cooper

AN ACT to designate a certain segment of U.S. Highway 64 as the "David Crockett Parkway".

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to dedicate a permanent memorial to David Crockett, one of the most notable citizens the Volunteer State has ever produced; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett is revered as a pioneer, frontiersman, public servant, statesman, backwoods orator and most of all, a man of the people, and he will always be remembered as a heroic participant in the Battle of the Alamo, in which he made the ultimate sacrifice of his life to preserve Texas independence; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett truly epitomized the ideal of the Renaissance man as he was engaged variously in farming, trapping, hunting, milling and distilling, as well as in political and military activities, during the course of his illustrious life; and

WHEREAS, born in what is now Greene County, Tennessee, David Crockett settled his family on a homestead located at the head of Shoal Creek in present-day Lawrence County in the fall of 1817; and

WHEREAS, he operated a grist mill and distillery there until a flood destroyed both his mills in 1821; and

WHEREAS, in September 1822, he relocated his family to present-day Carroll County, where he settled on a farm near the village of Rutherford; he was living there when he began his ill-fated journey to Texas on November 1, 1835; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett's estimable political career began on November 25, 1817, when this Body elected him to serve as justice of the peace for newly-formed Lawrence County; he also served as town commissioner for Lawrenceburg during this period of his life; and

WHEREAS, from 1821-1825, David Crockett astutely served the good people of Tennessee as a member of the 14th and 15th General Assemblies, ably representing Lawrence and Hickman counties during his first term of office and several West Tennessee counties, including Carroll and Madison, in his second term; and

WHEREAS, in 1826, David Crockett was elected as a Democrat to the House of Representatives of the 20th U. S. Congress and was re-elected to this prestigious post in 1828; and

WHEREAS, after he broke with Andrew Jackson and joined the Whigs, he failed to win re-election in 1830, but in the 1832 election, David Crockett emerged triumphant once again to serve as West Tennessee's Congressman; and

WHEREAS, after he failed to gain re-election by a narrow margin in 1834, David Crockett began planning his relocation to Texas; and

WHEREAS, in February, 1836, a mere three months after he departed the Volunteer State, David Crockett and several other fellow Tennesseans demonstrated the true spirit of volunteerism by joining the courageous Texas forces defending the Alamo; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett and the other 188 members of the garrison were killed when the Alamo was captured by Mexican forces on March 6, 1836, heroically sacrificing their lives to preserve the precepts of democracy and the reality of freedom; and

WHEREAS, today, David Crockett's spirit sleeps in the bosom of American heroism and independence, as his remains lie with those of his compatriots at the Alamo; and

WHEREAS, throughout his eventful and productive life, David Crockett distinguished himself as a pioneer in thought and action in many different arenas of public service and as an eloquent spokesman for the concerns of the common man; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is currently in the process of widening and improving U.S. Highway 64 in Franklin, Lincoln, Giles, Lawrence, Wayne, Hardin, McNairy, Hardeman and Fayette counties; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this segment of U.S. Highway 64 should be named to honor the memory of a truly remarkable Tennessean, David Crockett; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, that segment of U.S. Highway 64 from its intersection with Interstate 24 at Exit 127 (Pelham/Decherd) to the western boundary of Fayette County is hereby designated as the "David Crockett Parkway" as a lasting tribute to this great Tennessee statesman and public servant.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating such segment of U.S. Highway 64 as the "David Crockett Parkway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.