

HOUSE BILL 2668  
By Hensley

AN ACT to designate a segment of U.S. Highway 412 in the City of Hohenwald as the "Alan Ragsdale Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their own concerns to ensure our collective freedom and personal safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Officer Alan Ragsdale of the Hohenwald Police Department was one such outstanding public servant; citizens across the state and the members of the General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his tragic and untimely death in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, Officer Ragsdale truly enjoyed being a police officer, and he evidenced uncommon dedication to his duties despite the long hours and the uncertain and often dangerous nature of his profession; and

WHEREAS, Officer Ragsdale performed his appointed duties in an admirable manner that distinguished him as a credit to both his community and his profession; the City of Hohenwald was undoubtedly made a better and safer place to live during his service; and

WHEREAS, a great tragedy befell the State of Tennessee on the fateful day of November 27, 2000, when Officer Alan Ragsdale made the ultimate sacrifice of his life while engaged in active duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Hohenwald, Lewis County, and indeed the entire State lament this terrible and wasteful loss of one of our best and brightest law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, Officer Ragsdale was a highly respected member of his community, not only as a law enforcement professional who served and protected his fellow citizens, but also as a friend and a neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Alan Ragsdale regarded his work to be of the utmost significance, and his loyalty and commitment to justice fueled his determination to protect and serve as an officer of the law; and

WHEREAS, Officer Alan Ragsdale has left behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in his public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Hohenwald, at the request of the Alan Ragsdale Memorial Lodge No. 73 of the Fraternal Order of Police, have petitioned this Body to name a segment of East Main Street (U.S. Highway 412) in their fair city in Officer Ragsdale's honor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly concurs with this excellent proposal to permanently commemorate the bountiful life of this exceptional police officer and human being; 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 412 (East Main Street) in the City of Hohenwald, Lewis County from such route's

intersection with Ponderosa Drive to its intersection with Baker Road is hereby designated the "Alan Ragsdale Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to an exemplary public servant who made the ultimate sacrifice of his life while protecting his community and fellow citizens.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating the segment of U.S. Highway 412 described in Section 1 as the "Alan Ragsdale Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with § 54-1-133.

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 become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. The appellation "Alan Ragsdale Memorial Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 6. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of any highway described in this act as the "Alan Ragsdale Memorial Highway".

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.