



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION DESIGNATING A PORTION OF INTERSTATE 44 AS THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

JEFFERSON CITY -- Following a ceremonial signing today of Senate Bill 697, a section of Interstate 44 in Newton and Jasper counties will be known as the George Washington Carver Memorial Highway. Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, bill sponsor, was present as Gov. Bob Holden signed the bill as part of the Carver Day 2003 celebration.

“Growing up in Neosho, I admired Dr. Carver and all that he accomplished despite the many obstacles he faced,” said Nodler. “It was an honor to sponsor this legislation honoring this Newton County native.”

George Washington Carver National Monument was established in recognition of his achievements as a scientist, educator and humanitarian. Dr. Carver spent his formative years on the Diamond Grove farm, which greatly influenced the course of his life.

“It was at this farm that Carver was born into slavery and orphaned as an infant,” Nodler said. “Nevertheless, he grew up with a love and appreciation of nature that would sustain him throughout his life and lead to countless scientific contributions.”

The 210-acre park has a 3/4-mile nature trail, museum, and an interactive exhibit area for students. The 1881 Moses Carver house and the Carver cemetery are also part of the historic setting.

In addition to serving as a memorial to Carver, renaming a section of Interstate 44 should bring more attention to the monument.

“We hope that when people drive on this section of the highway that they will be inspired to stop at the monument,” said Nodler. “This park is a national treasure and really shows off the best of the Missouri Ozarks.”

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