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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2006

## Senate Committee Hears Bill Naming Portion of Hwy 21 for Slain Kirkwood Police Officer

Section Would be Named Sergeant William McEntee Memorial Highway

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. – Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, joined by Sergeant Willam McEntee's wife, Mary McEntee, and Kirkwood Police Detective Jackie Tabers today asked the Senate Transportation Committee to advance a bill that would name a portion of Highway 21, or Tesson Ferry Road, in St. Louis County from the intersection at Lindbergh Avenue to the intersection of Gravois Road the "Sergeant William McEntee Memorial Highway." Sergeant McEntee was gunned down while making a routine traffic stop on July 5, 2005. He was a 20 year veteran of the Kirkwood Police Department.

Gibbons says he drafted the bill because it is important for the community to recognize the men and women who work everyday to save lives.

"Sergeant McEntee gave his life in service to keeping the people of Kirkwood safe," Gibbons said. "This is something we can do to remind citizens of the incredible sacrifice he made and of the loss to his family."

Sergeant McEntee has three children. His wife, Mary McEntee, said she lives in the area where the signs commemorating her husband would be hung.

"For my children to see his name everyday driving by would be an honor and a comfort," she said.

Senate Bill 1139 would require the Missouri Department of Transportation to hang and maintain the signs commemorating this portion of the highway.

Highway 21 is also known as the Veterans Memorial Highway, but Gibbons said the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations' legislative committee is supportive and agreed to cede their name on this portion of the highway to honor Sergeant McEntee.

<sup>\*</sup>A photo of Sen. Gibbons and Mrs. McEntee testifying before the Senate Transportation Committee on March 7, 2006, can be obtained by contacting Farrah Fite at the number below.