

Northeast District Office
121 S.W. 21st Street
Topeka, KS 66612-1429



phone: 785-296-3881
fax: 785-296-3720
www.ksdot.org

Mike King, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2012

News Contact: Kimberly Qualls, (785) 640-9340 or kqualls@ksdot.org

New U.S. 77 Big Blue River Bridge Focus of Dual Celebration

The nearly completed \$7.6 million U.S. 77 Big Blue River Bridge Replacement Project was unveiled today at a ribbon cutting event on the new bridge in Marshall County. The Kansas Department of Transportation, along with Marshall County and the City of Blue Rapids, among others participated in the ribbon-cutting.

The new bridge provides added safety benefits as the 40-foot wide structure, with two 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders, will provide more room for today's wider vehicles. Also, the addition of a deceleration lane for northbound drivers turning east onto K-9 and an acceleration lane for eastbound drivers on K-9 turning north onto U.S. 77 will provide added safety for turning movements from the highway.

Signs designating the new bridge as the 1st Lt. Michael Hugh Breeding Memorial Bridge were also unveiled at the ceremony. First Lieutenant Breeding was a member of the Marine Attack Squadron 122, Marine Air Group 13, 1st Marine Air Wing. On Feb. 12, 1970, he was the pilot of a McDonnell Douglas Phantom II Fighter (F-4B) that crashed into the sea near Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. His remains were never recovered.

Rep. Sharon Schwartz presented legislation in 2010 and Gov. Mark Parkinson signed HB 2436 that same year honoring the Blue Rapids native by naming the bridge in his honor. Several local color guards, including the Marine Corps Reserve Unit (Topeka), Marine Corps League Detachment (Salina), Blue Rapids American Legion

Post, Marysville American Legion Post; Cub Scout troops and the Marysville American Legion Riders participated in the dual celebration.

Comments were delivered by KDOT Deputy Secretary Jerry Younger, Blue Rapids Mayor John Nowak, Marshall County Commissioner Thomas K. Holle, Rep. Schwartz, Patrick Breeding, and Major David Dunn, USMC.

###

This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact KDOT Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

Click below to connect to KDOT's Social Networks:

