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Julie Lorenz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sen. Dennis Wilson Memorial Highway designated in Johnson County**

Sen. Dennis Wilson, a longtime Johnson County resident and public official, was honored on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at a highway sign installation event at the Overland Park DoubleTree Hotel. The event celebrated the recently named Sen. Dennis Wilson Memorial Highway, a segment of U.S. 69, from 135<sup>th</sup> Street to I-435, in Johnson County.

Legislation to officially designate the memorial highway was introduced in the Kansas Senate Committee on Transportation during the 2021 legislative session, approved by the Kansas Legislature and signed by Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly in April.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has erected signs along U.S. 69 to mark this newly named segment, located in the legislative districts that Sen. Wilson served in both the Kansas House of Representatives and the Kansas Senate.

Remarks were shared by KDOT Secretary Julie Lorenz, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, Sen. Molly Baumgardner, Sen. Mike Peterson, Water One General Manager Mike Armstrong and former Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) Chairman Dave Lindstrom.

After graduation from Southeast High School in Kansas City, Mo., Wilson served four years in the United States Air Force, then moved to Kansas where he built his career. As a young man in Kansas City, Wilson learned the automobile retail industry and purchased his first of many dealerships at the age of 29. Later, he was involved in various business ventures, including those in the insurance and banking industries.

In addition to these elected positions, Wilson was appointed as the Kansas Director of the Office of Unclaimed Properties from 1999 to 2001 and as the Kansas Lottery Director from 2008 to 2009.



Vickie Wilson and Dave Lindstrom with guests at Sen. Dennis Wilson Memorial Highway sign unveiling event. *Photo by Delaney Tholen/KDOT*

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