



**AMERICAN LEGION  
Post 169 & Post 332  
Marshall County, Kansas**

January 31, 2020

The members of American Legion Post 169 of Blue Rapids and Post 332 of Waterville respectfully seek your approval in naming a five mile portion of US Highway 77 from the western limit of the City of Blue Rapids to the eastern limit of the City of Waterville, to "Corporal Allen Oatney and SP4 Gene Myers Memorial Highway". This is in honor of Corporal Allen E. Oatney and SP4 Gene A. Myers who were killed by hostile fire while serving their country during the Vietnam War.

Corporal Oatney was born on Oct 4, 1949 and graduated from Valley Heights High School in 1969. He was drafted in the U.S. Army via the Selective Service System. He served with D Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade conducting operations in Cambodia when on June 22, 1970 he was killed by hostile enemy small arms fire.

SP4 Myers was born on May 21, 1948 and graduated from Waterville High School in 1966. He was drafted in the U.S. Army via the Selective Service System. He served with C Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division conducting search and destroy operations in South Vietnam when on June 9, 1969 he was killed by hostile enemy small arms fire.

Corporal Oatney and SP4 Myers exemplified the unique characteristics of courage and devotion to country so common in our two little towns. We want to make sure that they are not forgotten and naming this highway will go a long way into cementing the special relationship that exists between the two towns and honoring a couple of American heroes.

We have received an endorsement from the Valley Heights School District, the City of Blue Rapids, the City of Waterville and the Marshall County Commissioners. The funding for memorial signs will be provided by the American Legion Posts 169 and 332 through private donations.

We understand that this is a process and are committed to providing any information or assistance that you may require. Our point of contact is Post 169 Service Officer: Jerry Zayas, 408 Lincoln Street, Blue Rapids, KS 66411, Telephone: 706-442-2053.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Roger Edwards  
Commander  
American Legion Post 169

John Arganbright  
Commander  
American Legion Post 332