

RESOLUTION 18-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF BRIDGE NUMBERS 150202 AND 150203 ON S.R. 580/MAIN STREET IN PINELLAS COUNTY TO BE DESIGNATED AS "GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMORIAL BRIDGE, DEDICATED TO U.S. ARMY CPL. FRANK R. GROSS"

WHEREAS, CPL Frank R. Gross moved with his family to Palm Harbor, Florida, December 1997, and then moved to Oldsmar, Florida, April 1998. Frank's home of record was Oldsmar, Florida at the time of his death in combat theater; and

WHEREAS, CPL Frank R. Gross attended Indian Rocks Christian High School, Largo, Florida where he was a pitcher for the Golden Eagles Baseball Team with an era of 1.63. Frank graduated, and then attended Trinity International University, Chicago, Illinois, on a baseball scholarship. He transferred to and played baseball at South Eastern University, Lakeland, Florida. At Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida, Frank earned a Bachelor's Degree in Digital Arts and Design and also a Master's in Business, additionally; he was recognized for perfect attendance during his entire academic career at Full Sail, all at age of 24; and

WHEREAS, CPL Frank R. Gross joined the Army in May of 2010 and graduated from basic combat training, Ft. Benning, Georgia, where he earned the "Basic Rifle Marksmanship" award, attaining a score of 39 out of 40. He attended AIT at Ft. Gordon, Georgia, and earned the "Distinguished Honor Graduate" award. Frank returned to Ft. Benning, where he graduated from Air Borne School and then entered the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program (RASP). He was stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas, until he deployed, June 2011; and

WHEREAS, CPL Gross served in Afghanistan with Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron of the 38th CAV Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Long Range Surveillance, Phantom Trackers, out of Ft. Hood, Texas; and

WHEREAS, CPL Gross was 25 years old when he was killed in action, July 16, 2011. He was a gunner conducting a combat vehicle recovery mission in southeastern Afghanistan, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. August 19, 2011, his 26th birthday, Frank was buried in Section 60, grave number 8311, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, near his grandparent's gravesites; and

WHEREAS, CPL Gross is recognized as Oldsmar's currently only known soldier who was killed in action, his home of record, Oldsmar, Florida. There may be other military personnel KIA from past conflicts who may have been residents of Oldsmar; and

WHEREAS, in addition to memorializing the life and service of a local young hometown hero, the bridge designation will also recognize the sacrifice that military families often make. These "families of the fallen" are also known as "Gold Star Families".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, at a duly-assembled meeting held on this 24th day of April, 2018, that it supports the designation of bridge numbers 150202 and 150203 on S.R. 580/Main Street in Pinellas County as "Gold Star Family Memorial Bridge Dedicated to U.S. Army CPL Frank R. Gross."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be made part of the minutes of the proceedings of this Board, and that a certified copy thereof be filed for record in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pinellas County, Florida.

Commissioner Seel offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Long, and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES: Welch, Seel, Eggers, Gerard, Justice, and Long.

NAYS: None.

Absent and not voting: Morroni.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Cheryl Donovan Pembek
Office of the County Attorney