



# CITIZEN COMMENT CARD

## The Board of County Commissioners values your participation

Please fill out this card if you wish to speak or record your sentiment regarding an agenda item or general topic. Individuals wishing to speak may do so for up to three minutes when called to the lectern.

☐ Citizens to be Heard

☒ Agenda Item

*Human Services*

Agenda date:

*2/13/18 w/s*

Agenda item number (NOT case number):

Speaking:

For ☐

Against ☐

Undecided ☐

Waive speaking:

In Support ☐

Against ☐

(The Chairman will read this information into the record.)

Topic:

*Memorial Bridge Design  
for a Fallen Soldier*

Name:

*Toni Gross*

Address:

*711 Satinkal Ave*

City:

*Oldsmar*

Zip:

*34677*

Email:

*cgross5@tampabay.rr.com*

*US Army  
Cpl Frank  
GROSS*

Please refer to the **Pinellas County Commission**

**Public Participation & Decorum Rules** for details.

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## **CPL Frank Robert Gross**

8/19/1985-7/16/2011

Frank Robert Gross was born August 19, 1985 in Virginia Beach, VA, the only son of Craig L. Gross and Antonia M. Gross of Oldsmar, FL.

Frank attended Indian Rocks Christian High School, Largo, FL 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, IL on a baseball scholarship. He transferred to and played baseball at South Eastern University, Lakeland, FL. At Full Sail University, Winter Park, FL, 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.

Frank joined the Army in May of 2010 and graduated from basic combat training, Ft. Benning, GA where he earned the Basic Rifle Marksmanship award, attaining a score of 39 out of 40. He attended AIT at Ft. Gordon, GA and earned the "Distinguished Honor Graduate" award. Frank returned to Ft. Benning, where he graduated from Air Borne School and then entered the RASP. He was stationed at Ft. Hood, TX until he deployed, June 2011.

Frank 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, TX.

Cpl. Frank R. Gross was 25 years old when he died, July 16, 2011. He was a gunner conducting a combat vehicle recovery mission in South Eastern, Afghanistan, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device, Frank died instantly.

August 19, 2011, his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, Frank was buried in Section 60, Arlington National Cemetery, where his grandparents are interred as well.

He was a young man who fulfilled all of the qualifications of a good son and was diligent to do everything he set out to do with the very best of his ability according to his favorite life verse, Colossians 3:23. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Frank enjoyed surfing, reading, and physical fitness training; he was fiercely loyal to and cherished spending time with his parents, older sister, Natalie, and his beloved, Tarryn.

Toni and Craig Gross

## **"U S ARMY CPL FRANK R. GROSS MEMORIAL BRIDGE"**

Request for approval to officially designate the name for a bridge over the canal connecting Lake Tarpon to the North and Old Tampa Bay to the South on State Road 586 between Oldsmar, Pinellas County, Florida, and Palm Harbor, Pinellas County, Florida, as the "US Army CPL Frank R. Gross Memorial Bridge"

WHEREAS, CPL Frank R. Gross moved, with his family to Palm Harbor, FL., December 1997, and then moved to Oldsmar, FL., April 1998 residing there until he enlisted in the US Army and shipped off to Ft. Benning, GA for BCT, May 1, 2010.

WHEREAS, CPL Frank R. Gross attended Indian Rocks Christian High School, Largo, FL 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, IL on a baseball scholarship. He transferred to and played baseball at South Eastern University, Lakeland, FL. At Full Sail University, Winter Park, FL, 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.

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

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, TX.

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 South Eastern, Afghanistan, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. August 19, 2011, his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, Frank was buried in Section 60, Arlington National Cemetery.

WHEREAS, CPL Gross is recognized as Oldsmar's only known soldier who was killed in action from the city of Oldsmar, his home of record, Oldsmar, FL.

We, the undersigned, give our approval that the above mentioned bridge be designated the "US ARMY CPL FRANK R. GROSS MEMORIAL BRIDGE"..

Signed and dated:

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Submitted by

Antonia Gross  
711 Satinleaf Avenue  
Oldsmar, FL 34677  
813-891-6410

2/13/2018

Signed and dated

**From:** [tiffa2](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 11:09 PM

**To:** [Farrill, Cody](#) ; [james grant](#) ; [James Grant](#) ; [District 64 James "J.W." Grant](#) ; [rogerFLDOT](#)

**Cc:** [Schuessler, Shannan](#) ; [Marsh, Amanda](#)

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: Florida Scenic Highways "Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier"

Cody, thank you, I'd like to work towards designating the bridge between **Oldsmar and Palm Harbor on Curlew Road, SR 586** in Frank's memory.

SR Grant and Trent, thank you for the help you've provided so far, please note the change of location. If possible, could you acknowledge that you've received this and have made the bridge designation change?

Toni Gross

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**From:** [Farrill, Cody](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 2:51 PM

**To:** [tiffa2](#)

**Cc:** [Schuessler, Shannan](#) ; [Marsh, Amanda](#)

**Subject:** RE: Fwd: Florida Scenic Highways "Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier"

Toni-

Yes I am confirmed with our office that the stretch or roadway/bridge has not been designated.

Thanks

Cody

[Cody.Farrill@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Cody.Farrill@dot.state.fl.us)

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**From:** [tiffa2](#) [<mailto:cgross5@tampabay.rr.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 12:09 PM

**To:** [Farrill, Cody](#) <[Cody.Farrill@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Cody.Farrill@dot.state.fl.us)>

**Cc:** [Schuessler, Shannan](#) <[Shannan.Schuessler@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Shannan.Schuessler@dot.state.fl.us)>; [Marsh, Amanda](#) <[Amanda.Marsh@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Amanda.Marsh@dot.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: Florida Scenic Highways "Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier"

I reviewed the database. It appears that the bridge between Oldsmar and Palm Harbor on Curlew Road, SR 586, is not yet named. Can you confirm this before I contact Grant's office?

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**From:** [Farrill, Cody](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 11:25 AM

**To:** [tiffa2](#)

**Cc:** [Schuessler, Shannan](#) ; [Marsh, Amanda](#)

**Subject:** RE: Fwd: Florida Scenic Highways "Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier"

Toni-

Please the following link:

<http://www.fdot.gov/planning/systems/programs/SM/road/default.shtm>

Thanks

Cody

[Cody.Farrill@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Cody.Farrill@dot.state.fl.us)

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**From:** tiffa2 [<mailto:cgross5@tampabay.rr.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2018 1:37 PM

**To:** Farrill, Cody <[Cody.Farrill@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Cody.Farrill@dot.state.fl.us)>; Marsh, Amanda <[Amanda.Marsh@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Amanda.Marsh@dot.state.fl.us)>; Schuessler, Shannan <[Shannan.Schuessler@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Shannan.Schuessler@dot.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: Florida Scenic Highways "Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier"

Cody, according to the website link from C. Speese, <http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Session/2012/InterimReports/2012-139tr.pdf> page 3, the bridge has a designation. Is there a database that would reflect which bridges have been previously designated?

Toni

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----- Original message -----

**From:** "Esposito, Robert" <[Robert.Esposito@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Robert.Esposito@dot.state.fl.us)>

**Date:** 2/2/18 8:00 AM (GMT-05:00)

**To:** "Speese, Christopher" <[Christopher.Speese@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Christopher.Speese@dot.state.fl.us)>, james grant <[trent.phillips@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:trent.phillips@myfloridahouse.gov)>, James Grant <[james.grant@caresync.com](mailto:james.grant@caresync.com)>, tiffa2 <[cgross5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cgross5@tampabay.rr.com)>

**Subject:** Re: FW: Fallen local soldier Memorial Bridge designation

Toni,

I have asked our Traffic Operations staff to look into this and will get back with you when I get a response. I should receive the response by the end of next week.

Sincerely,

Bob Esposito

Phone: 813-975-6038

Cell: 813-245-3509

[robert.esposito@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:robert.esposito@dot.state.fl.us)



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**From:** tiffa2 <[cgross5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cgross5@tampabay.rr.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2018 5:52:02 PM  
**To:** Speese, Christopher; Esposito, Robert; james grant; James Grant  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Fallen local soldier Memorial Bridge designation

Jamie, Christopher, Trent, and Robert,

According to the link below, page 3, the bridge has already been designated. Though there are no signs to reflect this.

Before I proceed, I'd like to know if the bridge linking Palm Harbor and Oldsmar , Curlew Road, is available. Who could confirm it's availability?

Records kept in the department's Transportation Statistics Office identify the earliest dedicated roadway as the W.W. Clark Memorial Bridge on State Road 580 between Safety Harbor and Oldsmar. This was dedicated by the State Road Board, the predecessor of FDOT, on July 6, 1922. Since that time, over 1,000 of these designations have been approved and every county and most cities have participated in officially designating some roadway feature (see Appendix). In addition, some roads and bridges have multiple or overlapping designations.

Toni

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**From:** [Speese, Christopher](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 8:01 AM  
**To:** [tiffa2](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Fallen local soldier Memorial Bridge designation

[Mrs. Gross,](#)

[I spoke with staff in my office and they informed me of the following:](#)

#### **Designations**

The Legislature has authority to designate transportation facilities for honorary or memorial purposes. Beginning in 1922, and with few exceptions, honorary designations were accomplished as they are today, through an act of the Legislature.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Session/2012/InterimReports/2012-139tr.pdf>

Mr. Roger Roscoe (who works with me) spoke with Mr. Gross yesterday via phone to relay our findings. I just wanted to follow-up with you to provide you with the information I have gathered. Please note we have also contacted Senator Young and Representative Grant to bring this to their attention. Please contact me with any questions and good luck!

***Christopher B. Speese***

DISTRICT SEVEN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN COORDINATOR

Florida Department of Transportation-District 7

11201 North McKinley Drive

Tampa, FL 33612

(813)-975-6405

[christopher.speese@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:christopher.speese@dot.state.fl.us)

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**From:** Esposito, Robert

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018 6:44 PM

**To:** Speese, Christopher <[Christopher.Speese@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Christopher.Speese@dot.state.fl.us)>

**Cc:** Roscoe, Roger <[Roger.Roscoe@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Roger.Roscoe@dot.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Fallen local soldier Memorial Bridge designation

See below.

Sincerely,

Bob Esposito

Phone: 813-975-6038

Cell: 813-245-3509

[robert.esposito@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:robert.esposito@dot.state.fl.us)

**From:** Phillips, Trent

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 4:00 PM



Subject: FW: Fallen local soldier Memorial Bridge designation

To: tiffa2

Cc: Esposito, Robert

Toni,

Thanks for reaching out to the FDOT on the bridge designation issue! Just wanted to let you know that Rep. Grant's office continues to do everything possible to get the road designation done through the legislature this year, and will continue working with you to get support from Oldsmar and Safety Harbor. More soon!

Kind regards,

**Trent Phillips**

Legislative Aide to State Representative James Grant

District: (813) 265-6272

Capitol: (850) 717-5064

[Trent.Phillips@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Trent.Phillips@myfloridahouse.gov)

[James Grant – District 64](#)

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**From:** Esposito, Robert [<mailto:Robert.Esposito@dot.state.fl.us>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018 12:44 PM

**To:** Young, Dana <[Young.Dana@flsenate.gov](mailto:Young.Dana@flsenate.gov)>; Grant, James  
<[James.Grant@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:James.Grant@myfloridahouse.gov)>

**Cc:** Simon, Kimberly <[Kimberly.Simon@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Simon@myfloridahouse.gov)>; Hoyt, Melonie  
<[Hoyt.Melonie@flsenate.gov](mailto:Hoyt.Melonie@flsenate.gov)>

**Subject:** Fallen local soldier Memorial Bridge designation

Senator Young and Representative Grant,

The request below came through my office and I was wondering if either of you may be interested in sponsoring the road naming request.

Sincerely,

Bob Esposito

Florida Department of Transportation

District 7 Government Affairs Liaison

11201 North McKinley Drive

Tampa, FL 33612

Cell 813-245-3509 Phone 813-975-6038

Dear Mr. Speese,

Thank you for speaking with me and your offer to help connect me with the individuals/department to possibly erect the signage to memorialize a local fallen soldier.

Toni Gross

711 Satinleaf Ave.

Oldsmar, FL 34677

813-891-6410

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This was my original request sent to District 64, State Representative James Grant's office dated:

07/24/17 6:57 PM

To the Honorable James Grant;

**I am the mother of a fallen soldier, US Army Cpl. Frank R. Gross. Frank, my only son, was killed in action July 16, 2011 as the result of injuries from an IED, Kandahar, Afghanistan. The attached photo was a photo that this soldier took of himself and digitally altered two months before he died serving our nation.**

**I am writing to you with a solemn request. I am requesting to memorialize my only son by naming a bridge after him. Frank is Oldsmar's only known service member who was killed in action and I can think of no more impactful way to pay tribute to this young soldier than to do this. The bridge I would like designated in Frank's memory would be the one that connects my community, Oldsmar, to Safety Harbor, FL the SR 580 Bridge. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6A4HdoxYTk>**

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Antonia "Toni" Gross**

**Mother of US Army Cpl. Frank R. Gross kia 7/16/2011 Afghanistan**

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**From:** [Farrill, Cody](#)

**Sent:** Sunday, February 04, 2018 10:45 AM

**To:** [cgross5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cgross5@tampabay.rr.com)

**Subject:** Fwd: Florida Scenic Highways "Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier"

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From: Farrill, Cody <[cody.farrill@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:cody.farrill@dot.state.fl.us)>

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 10:26 AM

Subject: FW: Florida Scenic Highways "Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier"

To: <[wordpress@fshpredesign.wpengine.com](mailto:wordpress@fshpredesign.wpengine.com)>

Cc: Schuessler, Shannan <[shannan.schuessler@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:shannan.schuessler@dot.state.fl.us)>, Marsh, Amanda

<[amanda.marsh@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:amanda.marsh@dot.state.fl.us)>

Antonia-

Good Morning! This email is a follow-up from our phone call earlier this week concerning the road designation process in Florida. The process is outlined in s. 334.071, F.S., which I have included below. In order for a roadway to be designated in Florida it should be passed as an act of the Legislature and also by a **local resolution**. If a road is designated by the legislature and does not have an accompanying local resolution, signs cannot be installed (vice-versa). As I mentioned, if the bridge crosses over (2) locales, a resolution for both would be needed for signage in both directions. I also checked on the House and Senate members that represent your district who may also be able to assist: Rep. James Grant, District 64 is your House member the senate seat for the area is District 16 and is currently vacant.

Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Thanks!

Cody

334.071 Legislative designation of transportation facilities.—

(1) Designation of a transportation facility contained in an act of the Legislature is for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility, and unless specifically provided for, shall not be construed to require any action by a local government or private party regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing address, or 911 emergency telephone number system listing.

(2) The effect of such designations shall only be construed to require the placement of markers by the department at the termini or intersections specified for each highway



segment or bridge designated, and as authority for the department to place other markers as appropriate for the transportation facility being designated.

(3) Erection of markers shall be contingent on the appropriate city or county commission passing a resolution in support of the particular honorary designation. If the bridge or road segment being designated is located in more than one city or county, resolutions supporting the designation must be passed by each affected local government prior to the erection of the markers.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Antonia Gross** <[wordpress@fshpredesign.wpengine.com](mailto:wordpress@fshpredesign.wpengine.com)>

Date: Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 3:37 PM

Subject: Florida Scenic Highways "Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier"

To: [info@floridascenichighways.com](mailto:info@floridascenichighways.com), [sliskey@sfprod.com](mailto:sliskey@sfprod.com)

From: Antonia Gross <[cgross5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cgross5@tampabay.rr.com)>

Subject: Designating a Bridge in memory of a local Fallen Soldier

Message Body:

I would like to begin the process of designating the bridge that connects my community, Oldsmar, to Safety Harbor, the SR 580 Bridge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6A4HdoxYTk>

I am the mother of this fallen soldier who was kia July 16, 2011 Afghanistan. US Army CPL Frank R. Gross my phone number is [813-842-1802](tel:813-842-1802)

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Florida Scenic Highways (<http://floridascenichighways.com>)



**Corporal Frank R. Gross**

**August 19, 1985 - July 16, 2011**



**DVD**  
VIDEO



Gold Star Awareness, Inc.  
goldstarawareness.com  
813-891-6410

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www.smuproductions.com