

- SUBJECT:** Designating a portion of FM 1810 for Luther G. Prunty
- COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Gutierrez, Blanco, Arévalo, Cain, Flynn, Lambert, Wilson
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** None
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code, sec. 225.001(c) allows part of the highway system, including a bridge or street, to be designated by the name of a deceased person who was significant in the state's history or in the lives of Texans.
- Sec. 225.021(c) prohibits the Texas Department of Transportation from designing, constructing, or erecting a marker to designate a state highway unless a grant or donation of funds is made to the department to cover the costs.
- DIGEST:** HB 409 would designate a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 1810 in Jack County, from the intersection with State Highway 59 to the county's eastern boundary, as the Luther G. Prunty Memorial Highway.
- Upon a donation of funds for the designation, the Texas Department of Transportation would design and construct markers indicating the designation and place one at each end and at appropriate intermediate sites along the highway.
- The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 409 would honor the life of Luther G. Prunty and memorialize his service in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he was a prisoner of war who was forced to build railways in the Burmese jungle in events that

inspired the film "The Bridge on the River Kwai." After the war, Mr. Prunty returned to Jack County and was elected tax assessor-collector before being appointed county auditor. He was an active member of the Jack County community, where he remained involved in several organizations and ranching after his retirement.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.