

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RENAMING OF THE HIGHWAY 61 BYPASS
TO THE "DOUG KING MEMORIAL EXPRESSWAY"**

WHEREAS, Charles D. King, known as "Doug King" to family and friends volunteered to join the U.S. Air Force in 1966 at the height of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, on Christmas Day in 1968 Doug King volunteered to accompany an air crew on a dangerous helicopter mission to rescue a downed pilot; and

WHEREAS, during the rescue, they came under fire and when the helicopter pulled away, the hoist holding Doug King and the downed pilot broke dropping them 10' to the ground and when the helicopter was able to return to the site, neither the pilot nor Doug King could be located and both were listed as "Missing in Action"; and

WHEREAS, Doug King was officially declared "Killed in Action" on December 5, 1978, and in 1993 it was determined that he and the downed pilot had died; and

WHEREAS, during the period Doug King was listed as "Missing in Action", he was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and for earlier rescue missions he had participated in, he was awarded some of the nation's highest awards including the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster and Purple Heart and for his heroism for his rescue attempt, he was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross which is the nation's second highest award next to the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, a committee was formed seeking the renaming of the Muscatine Highway 61 Bypass to the "Doug King Memorial Expressway" and they are asking that the Muscatine City Council support this endeavor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council for the City of Muscatine, that the City Council does support the renaming of the Muscatine Highway 61 Bypass to the "Doug King Memorial Expressway".

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council for the City of Muscatine, Iowa, this 19th day of July 2012.

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins

ATTEST:

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager

July 10, 2012

To: Muscatine City Council

Re: Agenda
Muscatine City Council Meeting
July 19, 2012

On behalf of the family of Charles Douglas King of Muscatine, Iowa, we are requesting that the Muscatine City Council adopt a resolution in support of renaming the Iowa Highway 61 Bypass the "Doug King Memorial Expressway."

Charles D. King, known as "Doug King" to family and friends graduated from Muscatine High School in 1964. Doug was a twenty year old student attending Iowa State University in 1966 during the height of the Vietnam War when he volunteered to join the US Air Force. Following graduation from Basic Training at Lackland AFB in Texas he was selected for special training as a Para Resueman. Following graduation from jump school and special warfare training he was assigned to Nakhon Penom Air Base in Thailand.

On Christmas Eve 1968, reports were received that a F105D aircraft piloted by USAF Major Charles R. Brownlee had been shot down over the enemy held territory of Laos. These reports indicated that Brownlee successfully ejected from his plane and landed safely on the ground. Two HH3E Jolly Green Giant Helicopters were immediately dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, they spotted Brownlee's parachute hanging from a tree. Numerous attempts were made to contact Brownlee by radio but he failed to respond. Finally, with darkness closing the helicopters were forced to return to their base.

The following day (Christmas Day), even though he had orders in his hands to depart that hostile country and return to the CONUS, King volunteered to accompany the air crew on this dangerous mission in an attempt to rescue the downed pilot. The helicopter located the pilot, believed to be dead by then. Suspecting an ambush, the helicopter pilot hovered out of range of ground fire above the pilot while smaller aircraft flew over the area trying to attract fire. The enemy did not respond and the trap had been set. Not wanting to leave a downed pilot, King volunteered to be lowered by a rescue hoist and attempt a rescue. The commander of the helicopter reluctantly agreed. King was lowered 100 feet into the jungle to the ground. Once on the ground, King radioed the helicopter that the pilot was "inert" and appeared to be lifeless. Still, King freed Brownlee from his parachute, secured him to the rescue device and dragged him to a point near the hovering helicopter.

Suddenly enemy soldiers swarmed over both men and began firing. King immediately radioed that he was under fire, had been hit and for the helicopter to pull away. Brownlee had already been secured to the hoist, but King had not yet secured himself to the cable. When the helicopter pulled away, the hoist line snagged in a tree and broke, dropping King and Brownlee about 10 feet to the ground. By then, the rescue helicopter had been severely damaged by ground fire and had no choice but to evacuate the area. When the rescue helicopter was able to return to the site, Brownlee and King could not be located. Subsequent searches were made but neither could be located and both were listed as "Missing in Action."

For many years following this incident, The King family in Muscatine anxiously awaited word that their son and brother was still alive and was a Prisoner of War. This word never came. On December 5, 1978

King was officially declared "Killed-in-Action." However, since his body had never been located, the family still held hopes that he might be found.

In 1993 US officials were allowed into the Central Army Museum in Hanoi, where personal items from American casualties were kept. They found an identification card with Charles Douglas King's name, service number and date of birth. A North Vietnamese witness was found who stated "a pilot was pulling up another pilot to the helicopter when the cable broke. Both pilots died."

During the period King was listed as "Missing in Action" he was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. For earlier rescue missions he had participated in, King was awarded some of the nation's highest awards including the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster and Purple Heart. For his heroism in this rescue attempt, he was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross which is the nation's second highest award next to the Medal of Honor.

On June 20, 2012, members of our committee met with Mr. Paul Trombino, Director of the IADOT and Mr. Steve Gent, Director of Traffic and Safety in their offices in Ankeny, Iowa. The IADOT are fully supportive of our recommendation and provided our committee with IDOT Regulations regarding the renaming of a Memorial Highway. These regulations contain the requirement for a resolution adopted by the City/County through which the named route passes, indicating approval of the route designation. Since the route of the Iowa Highway 61 Bypass (with exception of a section from Mulberry Ave to Lucas Street) flows through the City of Muscatine, a resolution from both the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County is required.

Charles Douglas King has been honored for his heroism and sacrifice by the USAF by having a dormitory named after him as "King Manor" at Andrews AFB, MD; another building as "King Dormitory" at March AFB, CA; an entire wing of Building 1856 at Hickam AFB, Hawaii renamed "King Hall"; a street at Scott AFB in Illinois changed from 1st Street to "King Street" and a Freedom Tree named after him at Offutt AFB in Nebraska. In his hometown of Muscatine, he has been awarded a certificate by the Muscatine Rotary Club.

It is time that the City and County of Muscatine recognize this local hero by renaming the Muscatine Highway 61 Bypass – the "Doug King Memorial Expressway."

Lee Miller
Muscatine, Iowa

Members of our Committee

Mark Lofgren, State Representative, District 80

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor, City of Muscatine

Mike Blanchard, President, Sons of American Legion

Ron Miller, Veterans Affairs Commission

Lee Miller, USAF Veteran

Jeff King, Brother of Doug King

Sherry King, Sister of Doug King