

SENATOR JAMES B. PEARSON

Kansas

Washington, D. C. - April 3, 1969

A proposal to name the interstate highway system after President Eisenhower was introduced today in the Senate by Senators James B. Pearson and Robert Dole of Kansas.

The proposal would give the name "Eisenhower Interstate Highway System" to the system initiated in 1956 during the Eisenhower administration by the Federal Aid Highway Act of that year.

Today's proposal was sponsored jointly by Pearson and Dole and was placed before the Senate by Pearson, the senior Kansas Senator, who returned last night from Abilene where he had attended funeral ceremonies for Eisenhower.

The two Kansas Senators also introduced a bill to place a bust of Eisenhower in the Capitol.

Pearson said on the floor of the Senate that the highway proposal is intended to honor the accomplishments of the Eisenhower administration, "While the interstate highway system was only one of many significant accomplishments during the Eisenhower administration, it is indicative of the foresight and breadth of vision that characterized Eisenhower as a man," Pearson said, "In naming the system for him, we would honor the man whose dedication to democracy was forged in war, and whose zeal for its principles in peacetime made him one of the outstanding nation-builders of our time."

Dole, in his hometown of Russell, Kans., after representing the Senate at Eisenhower's burial services Wednesday in Abilene, said, "The great deeds and triumphs of General Eisenhower were always marked by the extra dimensions of his personality, his character and his humanity. I join all Kansans in saluting Eisenhower and his greatness."

"If enacted, these two measures would help give public and permanent recognition to a man whose memory is forever secure in the affections of his fellowmen everywhere," he added.

Pearson also said he and Dole considered it appropriate that the Senate honor Eisenhower "in its own environs" by placing a bust of the former President in the Capitol.

Legislation similar to the highway proposal has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Kansas Congressmen, Chester Mize and Garner Shriver.

A branch of the interstate system, Highway I-70, passes just north of Abilene on its route between Kansas City and Denver. Many mourners at yesterday's ceremonies came to Abilene on this highway.