

Fort Wayne District Names Portion Of State Road 14 The Jason E. Beal Memorial Highway



INDOT's Fort Wayne District unveiled two signs on Wednesday, February 29, on State Road 14 in Kosciusko County to honor fallen Indiana State Police Trooper Jason E. Beal. In addition to the district staff and Beal's widow and son, nearly 20 state troopers and local law enforcement personnel were in attendance to honor Beal during the unveiling, which took place near the Kosciusko/Whitley county line.

Beal was patrolling in southeastern Kosciusko County on State Road 14 on January 12, 2000. He stopped around midnight to assist a tow truck operator, who was pulling a car out of a ditch. As the two men worked alongside the icy road, the driver of a passing vehicle lost control of their car, striking the tow truck and Beal, who later died from his injuries.

Because Beal gave his life helping others, former State Representative William Ruppel in 2010 authored House Resolution 18 to rename a section of State Road 14 in Beal's honor.

INDOT Fort Wayne District Deputy Commissioner Bob Alderman opened the unveiling ceremony with a few words, saying he hopes these signs serve as a constant reminder to travelers of the danger Indiana State Police officers face every day. "The tremendous sacrifice this young state police trooper made is a significant thing," said Alderman.



Fort Wayne District Deputy Commissioner Bob Alderman, right, spoke a few words at the sign unveiling ceremony.



“Thank you for making these signs possible,” Beal’s widow, Emily Beal-Nelis, said. “And to all of you state troopers standing here, thank you for your support. Jason loved his job. It was part of who he was – helping the community, helping the state. When you take this job, you make a pledge. You know it’s a possibility that you may make the ultimate sacrifice. Jason made the ultimate sacrifice. He will be remembered.”

“Bryan Mitchell and Kurt Brackenhamer from the Wabash Subdistrict Traffic/Sign Department erected the memorial signs,” said Wabash Subdistrict/North Manchester Unit 3 Foreman Rob Clark. “And from my crew, Todd Wheatley and Brandon Whitcraft served as flaggers during the event while Rhonda Hagg staffed the crash protection truck.”

“It was a very nice event in honor of a good man,” said Alderman. “And it would not have been a memorable event without the assistance and good work of the district, Wabash Subdistrict and the North Manchester Unit 3 employees.”