

# Highway renamed after local woman

BY EMILY MERKLE  
Staff Reporter

The four-lane stretch of U.S. Highway 63 between the Macon/Adair County line and the south side of Kirksville is now called the Harriet Beard Highway to honor a local woman who has devoted time to making existing highways safer throughout Missouri.

The name change went into effect during August, and the signs for the highway were unveiled during a ceremony on Truman State's campus Nov. 15.

Kirksville resident Harriet Beard grew up in Marshalltown, Iowa, and graduated from Iowa State University. Beard later moved to Kirksville, where she and her husband raised four children who all are involved in the family business, Beard's Decorating Center, of which she is president.

Beard said she's been working to promote Kirksville for many years. She said she was involved in the Community Betterment committee, which established a health department in Kirksville. She said she and many others worked to bring the YMCA to town and raised the funds to build its current building. Beard said she has served on many committees, worked on many local betterment projects, particularly for environmental interests, and was appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon to serve on the short-term Total Transportation Commission. She said she also is involved with the Rotary Club.

"I've just kept busy with what needs to be done," Beard said.

Beard said her efforts to get a four-lane highway in Kirksville were inspired by the need for one she noticed in the community. She said the goal for U.S. Highway 63 is to connect capital cities Jefferson City, Missouri, and Des Moines, Iowa. The section

from Macon to Kirksville has four lanes, and Beard said only thirty miles from Kirksville to the Iowa border and twenty miles from the Iowa border to Ottumwa, Iowa, have yet to be turned into a four-lane highway. Beard said the committee she serves on, the Northeast Regional Transportation Planning committee, has been working with people in Iowa to finish connecting the capitals.

**"I am honored and privileged to be able to recognize someone important to our community."**

-Nate Walker, District Representative

Aside from having a section of U.S. Highway 63 named after her, Beard said she has received several state awards for her work toward community betterment throughout the years.

Heidi Templeton, Truman's director of public relations, said during the process of trying to get a four-lane highway approved, a highway commission meeting took place in St. Louis, and more than 200 Truman parents attended to show their support for the highway projects. Templeton said after a vote was passed to raise taxes to pay for the expansion of the road, the ground breaking took place during 2002.

Templeton said she views Beard as the type of person she encourages students to strive to be. She

said Beard is a highly involved citizen and a great community leader. Templeton said despite having helped get a four-lane highway to the south side of Kirksville, Beard has not stopped her efforts to bring better and safer highways to northeast Missouri and continues to be involved in efforts to get a four-lane highway from the north side of Kirksville to the Iowa border.

State Rep. Nate Walker said he introduced Bill 34, which called for the naming of the section from Macon to Kirksville after Beard. Walker said the bill unanimously passed in the Transportation Committee and passed in the House by a considerable margin. He said the bill faced some opposition in the Senate on the grounds that Beard still is living. Walker said after discussion, the bill finally passed in the Senate and went into effect Aug. 8. He said the signs were unveiled Nov. 15 and are expected to be put up quickly. Walker said there was an amazing turnout at the highway sign unveiling ceremony.

"I am honored and privileged to be able to recognize someone important to our community," Walker said.

Walker said Beard is still highly involved with further improvements for U.S. Highway 63 and with the ongoing efforts to get much-needed upgrades and repairs on Baltimore Street.

Kevin James, assistant district engineer of Missouri Department of Transportation Northeast District, said MoDOT helped support the signs and will be in charge of maintenance, but the signs were funded by private donations.


"The naming was done to recognize Ms. Beard's long efforts at improving our state transportation," James said.

## Making cards for Giving Tuesday

In honor of the National Day of Giving, students were invited to make holiday cards to give to the residents of Kirksville Manor Care. The event was hosted by students from COMM 353: Public Relations. Students created a total of 132 cards, exceeding the group's goal of creating 86 cards.



Submitted photo  
Truman students create cards for the residents of Kirksville Manor Care for the National Day of Giving. The group hosting the event provided props including a festive photo frame and letters for students to use to take pictures and post to social media using the Giving Tuesday hashtag.



**Serving Fresh, Local Food & Drinks**  
With food made from scratch, our menu features locally-raised beef & pork. We also use local produce as much as possible.

Wednesday & Thursday 5-9 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Sunday Brunch Buffet 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Featuring made from scratch fried chicken, biscuits & gravy, blueberry pancakes, breakfast casserole, fresh fruit & salad, homemade pastries and much more!

Check out on Facebook for our daily specials.  
**Reservations required for parties of 7 or more.**  
202 S. Hwy 63, Greentop, MO  
www.sebrees.com  
660-949-2130



**I DON'T ALWAYS ADVERTISE, BUT WHEN I DO, I USE THE TRUMAN MEDIA NETWORK.**

EMAIL US AT  
ADVERTISING.TRUMANMEDIA@GMAIL.COM  
OR CALL 314-239-0899  
FOR MORE INFO

TMN TELEVISION TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX dm the 88.7 edge

**WWW.TRUMANRENTALS.COM**

Providing affordable student housing for more than 30 years

Boardwalk • Waterworks • Park Place  
States Avenue • St. James Place • New York Avenue

Four Horizons Realty  
703 N. Marion St.  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
660-665-RENT  
www.4horizonsrealty.com



loka!  
Available Now

susan g. komen

**GLIK'S** Visit [www.gliks.com](http://www.gliks.com) to find your nearest location