

Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee:

Please consider this my testimony in support of Proposed Bill No. 5925 – “An Act Naming a Driveway After Lisa Maynard.”

I first met Lisa in February of 1996 when I transferred from District IV Construction to Facilities Design. She was still Lisa Hudson at that point and we were both still very young – she had just turned 26 and I was 25.

I sat beside Lisa for almost 17 years until she died in December of 2012. She was only 41 years old. She started working for the Department of Transportation in January of 1994 and worked here for almost half of her life.

During that time, Lisa was directly involved in the design and construction of well over 50 projects. These projects included runways, taxiways, maintenance facilities, salt sheds, railroad stations, bus garages and parking lots. She also reviewed plans for countless projects designed by others for the Department.

We started out as co-workers and eventually she became my supervisor. We worked extremely well together and I always felt that we were a team.

We spent a lot of time together at work. I did a quick calculation – over 30,000 hours. During that time, life also happened. While she was designing projects and seeing them through construction, she was raising a family. She was juggling school schedules and going on family vacations –

just like everyone else. She had hopes and dreams. She had plans for the future.

Over the years, I learned a lot from Lisa and a lot about Lisa. She was stubborn. She was humble. She was dedicated. She was an excellent mother. She was a good person. She treated others with respect. She did not want special recognition for doing her job well. As far as she was concerned, when you did something, you did it right and to the best of your ability. She was the type of person who stood by her convictions.

Lisa didn't want special treatment – ever. I remember her very pregnant, walking up the stairs to our office on the third floor. In her mind, being pregnant was not an excuse to take the elevator. I also remember her leaving work one day not too long after that – and stopping at the hospital after leaving work at her regularly scheduled leave time and giving birth a short time later – too short of a time later – less than a couple of hours later! I asked her about it after she came back to work and she told me that she started having contractions at lunch time, but she figured she could work until the end of the day.

When she was first diagnosed with breast cancer and undergoing treatment, she reacted similarly. Again – radiation and chemotherapy were not a reason to take time off of work or to even take the elevator once you were at work. She missed very little work for her appointments and tried to make up the time when she could. She must have been exhausted and at times in a tremendous amount of pain. But she never complained. She never asked for special treatment. She kept doing her job. She didn't miss any deadlines.

She cared about her projects and put a lot of time and effort into making sure they were designed correctly and worked appropriately. This particular maintenance facility in Colchester was a project she spent a lot of time on before she died. She lived in Hebron and this facility was close to her house. She even took her children there one Saturday so she could investigate some concerns she had with the site. This project was exciting for her. It was a brand new site – not a remodel of an existing facility or adding a new building to an existing DOT site. She was very cognizant of the responsibility associated with turning a previously wooded site into a maintenance facility. She was very careful to minimize impacts to the environment as much as possible while maintaining the functionality of the site. These things were important to her.

For this project, a consultant designed the building and DOT designed the site. There was much coordination involved with other units within the DOT and with others outside the DOT. This included the design consultant for the building as well as town officials and the designers of the water and sewer mains that were extended under this project. Everyone she came in contact with was treated the same way – with courtesy and respect. Everyone liked her and knew they could count on her to either address their concerns or lead them to someone who could.

Construction of this project started four months before she died. She never saw this project completed. But if she had, she would have been proud of the way it turned out. She would have driven by the site often and watched as her hard work and vision for this facility become a reality.

If Lisa was here – she would not be pleased with being the focus of this much attention – in fact, that is probably an understatement. She preferred to go “under the radar” and not be in the spotlight.

Lisa called in sick to work on a Wednesday and died that Sunday. Those of us who worked with her were unaware (or more likely, in denial) that things had gotten that serious. She died without any of us having a chance to make a fuss over her. But when I think of Lisa, I know that is how she would have wanted it.

However, now is the time to recognize Lisa. She deserves this recognition for her hard work and dedication; for her determination to not let cancer define who she was as a person or limit what she could accomplish.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of this bill.

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