

SUBJECT: Designating a portion of SH 191 as the Chris Kyle Memorial Highway

COMMITTEE: Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Gutierrez, Blanco, Arévalo, Cain, Flynn, Lambert, Wilson
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Kirk Edwards; (*Registered, but did not testify*: CJ Grisham)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sacha Jacobson)

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code, sec. 225.001(c) allows part of the highway system, including a bridge or street, to be designated by the name of a deceased person who was significant in the state's history or in the lives of Texans.

Sec. 225.021(c) prohibits the Texas Department of Transportation from designing, constructing, or erecting a marker to designate a state highway unless a grant or donation of funds is made to the department to cover the costs.

DIGEST: HB 1483 would designate the portion of State Highway 191 in Ector County as the Chris Kyle Memorial Highway.

Upon a donation of funds for the designation, the Texas Department of Transportation would be required to design and construct markers indicating the designation and place one at each end and at appropriate intermediate sites of the highway.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 1483 would continue the Odessa community's efforts to honor the sacrifice of Chris Kyle and pay tribute to all veterans, especially those in need. Last year, the community dedicated the Chris Kyle Memorial Plaza

to the memory of the Odessa native and former Navy SEAL, who spent his post-military career helping his fellow veterans transition back into civilian life. During the dedication ceremony, those in attendance voiced support for dedicating the portion of State Highway 191 that runs adjacent to the plaza as the Chris Kyle Memorial Highway. This bill would further the Odessa community's efforts to memorialize this heroic Texan.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

A companion bill, SB 868 by Seliger, was referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation on February 27.