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Senate Bill 435 (as passed by the Senate)
Sponsor: Senator Ken Horn
Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Date Completed: 12-23-19

RATIONALE

The Michigan Memorial Highway Act provides for the naming of highways in Michigan. Many of these highways have been named after police officers or soldiers killed in the line of duty, or noted community figures. A native of Reese, Michigan, Staff Sergeant Eugene H. E. Alex suffered fatal injuries after his squadron encountered enemy forces in Iraq. To honor his sacrifice and service, it has been suggested that a portion of Highway M-81 be named after Staff Sergeant Alex.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to designate the portion of Highway M-81 in Saginaw County beginning at the intersection with North Gera Road and extending east to the intersection with South Van Buren Road in Tuscola County as the "Staff Sergeant Eugene H. E. Alex Memorial Highway".

Proposed MCL 250.2075

BACKGROUND

After graduating from Reese High School and working locally, Staff Sergeant Alex joined the United States Army in 1996. He was posted to Fort Knox in Kentucky, Fort Hood in Texas, and Fort Wainwright in Alaska, during which time he was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. In 2005, Staff Sergeant Alex was deployed to Iraq to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He suffered fatal injuries on August 30, 2006, after his squadron encountered enemy forces in a small-arms skirmish in Baghdad, Iraq.

ARGUMENTS

(Please note: The arguments contained in this analysis originate from sources outside the Senate Fiscal Agency. The Senate Fiscal Agency neither supports nor opposes legislation.)

Supporting Argument

Staff Sergeant Eugene H. E. Alex exemplified bravery and heroism during his service and is remembered with affection by family and friends. Naming a portion Highway M-81 in Saginaw and Tuscola Counties near his hometown would be a fitting way to commemorate his legacy and his sacrifice.

Legislative Analyst: Tyler VanHuysse

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Michael Siracuse

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.