



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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For Immediate Release:
January 25, 2005

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Senator Kevin Engler Moves to Rename Highway in Memory of Patrolman

JEFFERSON CITY – State Senator Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, today introduced a bill that would rename a portion of State Highway M as the “Highway Patrolman Robert Kolilis Memorial Highway.” Trooper Kolilis died in 1988 from injuries suffered when he was struck by a pick-up truck on highway M in Washington County near Irondale, Mo.

“Trooper Kolilis was a 24-year-old officer serving the people of Missouri when he was taken from us while in the line of duty,” Engler said. “For that, he deserves to be recognized.”

Engler’s drafting of Senate Bill 227 is the result of efforts from Margie Taylor, a citizen of Irondale, who had been on her way to church that September evening 16 years ago.

The accident occurred after Trooper Kolilis stopped to render assistance to a vehicle that was partially parked on the eastbound lane of highway M.

Taylor was the first person on the scene.

“I grabbed a blanket out of my car and sat with Bob’s head on my lap until the ambulance got there,” Taylor said. “They were never able to stabilize him so it was a very emotional time for me. I felt there was a connection between Bob and me.”

Taylor made it her mission to commemorate Trooper Kolilis.

“I just felt like it was something I had to do,” Taylor said. “I am thrilled that Sen. Engler has moved so quickly with my request to name a section of that highway after Bob.”

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If Senate Bill 227 passes, a sign denoting the new designation would be placed along the highway.

“The sign will serve as a tribute to Trooper Kolilis’ service as well as the service of other law enforcement officers who are killed in similar circumstances,” Engler said. “I hope that the sign will also be a reminder to motorists to use their utmost caution when they come across emergency vehicles on state highways and streets.”

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Senator Kevin Engler represents the people of Washington, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, Iron, Reynolds and Carter counties and a portion of Jefferson County in the Missouri Senate.