

SUBJECT: Naming part of U.S. Highway 287 as Charles H. Roan Memorial Highway

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

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

WITNESSES: None

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 1317 would amend Transportation Code, ch. 225 to name the portion of U.S. Highway 287 in Claude, Texas, as the Charles H. Roan Memorial Highway.

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

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 1317 would allow the city of Claude to honor Charles H. Roan, one of the city's residents who was killed in action during World War II saving the lives of his fellow Marines. During combat in the Pacific theater, Roan flung himself on an enemy grenade in order to absorb the explosion, saving four men. For this act, he was posthumously awarded the

Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman in 1945.
Renaming a portion of U.S. Highway 287 as the Claude H. Roan
Memorial Highway further would honor the legacy of a man who made
the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.