

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Rep. Leon Stavrinakis announces naming of portion of US Highway 17, “CHARLESTON NINE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY”

Today, Representative Leon Stavrinakis announced passage of bill H.4584 which names a portion of U.S. Highway 17 the “Charleston Nine Memorial Highway” as a lasting tribute to the nine City of Charleston firefighters who tragically lost their lives battling a West Ashley fire in June of 2007. Rep. Stavrinakis introduced H.4584 earlier this year and it was approved by the House of Representatives, the State Senate gave it final approval this week.

“In the days and weeks following the devastating loss of life on June 18, 2007, all of us committed to never forget the bravery and sacrifice of these fallen heroes. The naming of this portion of Highway 17 will ensure that as one commitment we keep forever. Whenever we travel this portion of Highway 17, let us remember Captain Billy Hutchinson, Captain Mike Benke, Captain Louis Mulkey, Engineer Mark Kelsey, Engineer Brad Baity, Asst. Engineer Michael French, Firefighter James Earl Drayton, Firefighter Brandon Thompson and Firefighter Melvin Champaign. Let us remember their bravery, their courage, their selflessness and their sacrifice for our community,” said Stavrinakis.

“I want to thank Speaker Bobby Harrell, Senator Glenn McConnell and the rest of the General Assembly for helping me guide this bill to passage. I look forward to working with the Department of Transportation to set up an appropriate time and location for a formal dedication ceremony,” added Stavrinakis.

H. 4584 names the portion of US Highway 17 from the intersection of S.C. Highway 7 to the intersection of S.C. Highway 171 the “Charleston Nine Memorial Highway”.

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