

Date of Hearing: June 27, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

SCR 78 (Durazo) – As Introduced March 1, 2022

**SENATE VOTE:** 37-0

**SUBJECT:** Los Angeles Firefighter Kelly Wong Memorial Highway

**SUMMARY:** Will designate a portion of Southbound State Highway Route 101, from Temple St. ramp to Broadway St. ramp, adjacent to Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels as the Los Angeles Fire Fighter Kelly Wong Memorial Highway.

**EXISTING LAW:** Assigns the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways. This includes the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans determine the cost of appropriate signage consistent with requirements for the state highway system, and only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

**COMMENTS:** Kelly Wong moved to California in 1997 when he was eight years old with his mother, Anne. He first attended college at Mt. San Antonio College, where he received his associate degree in fire technology, graduated with academic honors, and was recognized for his stewardship in the local community. Kelly went on to receive his Bachelor of Science from Columbia Southern University, with a concentration in fire systems. Kelly Wong continued on to graduate and become a firefighter with the Los Angeles Fire Department on August 20, 2015, Drill Tower 40, Class 14-2, earning distinction in the firefighting academy and being named the Top Academic Recruit of his graduating class.

In his free time, Kelly Wong enjoyed the outdoors, traveling, as well as learning new subjects and problem solving, and he was an avid aviation enthusiast who was in the process of obtaining his fixed wing private pilot rating from Universal Air Academy at Brackett Field Airport.

Kelly Wong was just starting his career as a two-year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department, assigned to Fire Station 92 in Rancho Park and about to be transferred to Fire Station 9, the Downtown and Skid Row station when, on June 3, 2017, while participating in a training exercise in downtown Los Angeles, he unfortunately fell from an aerial ladder and suffered critical injuries. On June 5, 2017, Kelly Wong succumbed to those injuries.

Kelly Wong was known to always have a smile on his face, especially when answering the call of duty as a firefighter to assist others in their most dire times of need. Kelly exemplified the professionalism, work ethic, dedication, and self-sacrifice for which Los Angeles Fire Department firefighters are known, touched the lives of many, is sorely missed by all who knew him, and will never be forgotten. Kelly Wong is survived by his loving wife, Danielle, and his six-year-old son, Colton

According to the author, “Kelly Wong exemplified the professionalism, work ethic, dedication, and self-sacrifice for which Los Angeles Fire Department firefighters are

known. He touched the lives of many and is sorely missed by all who knew him. He will never be forgotten.

As part of recognizing his contributions to our community and honoring his legacy, I am authoring this resolution for California to formally recognize the contributions of Los Angeles Fire Department Firefighter Kelly Wong to the people of California.”

*Committee Comments:* It is the intent of the Assembly Transportation Committee to use the Memorial Highway Naming process to honor deceased Californians who have made significant public service contributions and also to reflect the diversity of our state. Currently, most named highways in California are for fallen male public safety officers, who made the ultimate sacrifice, and for whom we are indebted. However, these names do not fully represent the wide range of types of public service contributions, as well as the gender and racial diversity of California’s communities. The Assembly Transportation Committee is committed to working with the Department of Transportation in the upcoming year to improve the naming process to ensure greater equity and to better represent the diversity of California.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Cal Fire Local 2881  
California Professional Firefighters

**Opposition**

None on file.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Jessica Sam / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093