

31st Alaska State Legislature

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 84 (SB 84) Naming the Trooper Gabe Rich Memorial Bridge

SB 84 will rename bridge number 392 over the Chatanika River at mile 38.8 of the Steese Highway to the "Trooper Gabe Rich Memorial Bridge".

The name change honors Trooper Gabe Rich, who performed his duties as an Alaska State Trooper with honor and courage until his End of Watch on May 1, 2014.

This bill will memorialize his name onto the bridge approximately two hours from Central, Alaska, Gabe's favorite place to visit in the state.

He took many camping and hunting trips with his grandfather Dick Ganley in the Central community and became lifelong friends with several people there; Gabe made acquaintances with many different people of all ages and backgrounds, showing each of them respect.

Gabe Rich became the captain of the Lathrup High School hockey team during his senior year, graduating from Lathrop High School in 2006; like many Alaskans, Gabe enjoyed snow machining in the Alaskan winters, playing hockey with friends, and hunting with those he was close to.

He attended Montana State University and the University of Alaska Anchorage before becoming a law enforcement officer, and in 2013, Gabe was given an Accommodation for Honorable Service.

Gabe's last assignment as an Alaska State Trooper was in the "D" Detachments Rural Unit, which is responsible for protecting and covering 77,000 sq. miles of Alaskan Frontier.

The Trooper Gabe Rich Memorial Bridge will stand to remind Alaskans of the dedication and the sacrifice that Trooper Rich made on their behalf.

Trooper Gabe Rich is survived by: his fiancé, Angie Rich; sons, Lenox and Malakai; parents, David and Patty Rich.