

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: 4.13.21

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Representative Cassandra Hernandez 212.0003
Representative Joe Molinar 212.0004
Representative Alexsandra Anello 212.0002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: 2 (Northeast El Paso)

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural and Educational Environments

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action to support SB 1704 designating U.S. Highway 54 in El Paso as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway by adding to the City's State 87th Legislative Session Agenda and directing the Mayor to provide a letter of support for SB 1704 to the Texas Senate Transportation Committee.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

SB 1704 proposes to dedicate a portion of U.S. Highway 54 in El Paso County as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway to honor the veterans who fought in the Korean War.

During the Korean War over 50,000 American soldiers lost their lives and double that amount were wounded. Despite this grueling conflict, the Korean War has been referred to as the "Forgotten War." SB 1704 proposes to dedicate a portion of U.S. Highway 54 in El Paso County as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway to honor the veterans who fought in the Korean War, so their bravery and sacrifice will not be forgotten.

The portion of United States Highway 54 in El Paso County between its intersection with State Highway Loop 375 and the New Mexico state border is already designated as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

No

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

No budget required

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

By: Blanco

S.B. No. 1704

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the designation of the portion of United States Highway 54 in El Paso County as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 225, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 225.190 to read as follows:

Sec. 225.190. KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY. (a) The portion of United States Highway 54 in El Paso County between its intersection with State Highway Loop 375 and the New Mexico state border is designated as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway. This designation is in addition to any other designation.

(b) Subject to Section 225.021(c), the department shall:

(1) design and construct markers indicating the designation as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway and any other appropriate information; and

(2) erect a marker at each end of the highway and at appropriate intermediate sites along the highway.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.



SENATE BILL 1704

BY SENATOR CESAR BLANCO

relating to the designation of the portion of the United States Highway 54 in El Paso County as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

Background

July 27th, 2021 marks the 68th anniversary of the armistice ending the Korean War. The deadly Korean War resulted in 54,246 lost American troops, 103,284 wounded troops, and over 7,140 prisoners of War in some of the most unimaginably hostile conditions such as torture, inhumane treatment, and acute hunger. 40 percent of prisoners died in captivity. Unfortunately, 8,177 lives are still missing in action.

The Korean War has been referred as the "Forgotten War." The Americans who served in the Korean War deserve to be honored. Honoring these veterans will ensure that veteran's who sacrificed their lives in the Korean War was not in vain and that their memories will live forever in the hearts and minds of generations to come. SB 1704 proposes to dedicate a portion of U.S. Highway 54 in El Paso Paso County as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway to honor the veterans who fought in the Korean War.

Bill Details

SB 1704 designates a portion of United States Highway 54 in El Paso County as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.



April 6, 2021

The Honorable Sen. Robert Nichols, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation
SHB 450
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

RE: Senate Bill 1704 (Blanco)

Dear Chairman Nichols:

I am writing to express the El Paso County Commissioners Court's enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 1704 by Sen. César J. Blanco. During our commissioners court meeting on April 5, the commissioners court unanimously voted to formally add to our 87th Legislative Session agenda support for designating U.S. 54 in El Paso as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway. Designating U.S. 54 to honor Korean War veterans positively reflects our community's appreciation for veterans and El Paso's ongoing support for our military. We respectfully urge the Senate Transportation Committee, and the full legislature, to pass this important bill into law.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and for your service to the people of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ricardo A. Samaniego".

Ricardo A. Samaniego
El Paso County Judge