

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10091

To designate the 26-mile portion of Interstate 17 in the State of Arizona between milepost 237 near New River and milepost 263 at the junction with State Route 69 near Cordes Junction as the “Kayla Jean Mueller and Charles H. Keating IV Memorial Highway”, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 13, 2026

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To designate the 26-mile portion of Interstate 17 in the State of Arizona between milepost 237 near New River and milepost 263 at the junction with State Route 69 near Cordes Junction as the “Kayla Jean Mueller and Charles H. Keating IV Memorial Highway”, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mueller-Keating Me-
5 morial Highway Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Kayla Jean Mueller was a humanitarian aid
4 worker from Prescott, Arizona, who devoted her life
5 to assisting vulnerable populations in conflict zones,
6 was kidnapped by the Islamic State of Iraq and
7 Syria (ISIS) while providing humanitarian assist-
8 ance in Syria in August 2013, and was later mur-
9 dered in captivity.

10 (2) Chief Petty Officer Charles H. Keating IV,
11 a native of Phoenix, Arizona, was a United States
12 Navy SEAL who was killed in action on May 3,
13 2016, while supporting operations against ISIS in
14 Iraq as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

15 (3) Kayla Jean Mueller's courage, faith, moral
16 conviction, and commitment to human dignity exem-
17 plified the highest ideals of American humanitarian
18 service.

19 (4) Chief Petty Officer Keating's bravery, valor,
20 and professionalism exemplified the highest ideals of
21 American military service and the commitment of
22 United States service members to defeat ISIS and
23 protect innocent civilians.

24 (5) Despite extensive efforts by the United
25 States Government, the remains of Kayla Jean
26 Mueller have not yet been recovered and returned to

1 her family, underscoring the Nation's enduring obli-
2 gation of No American Left Behind: a solemn com-
3 mitment to recover and repatriate Americans lost
4 overseas whenever possible.

5 (6) Operation Inherent Resolve represents the
6 collective effort by the United States and its coali-
7 tion and local partners to degrade and defeat ISIS
8 through military action, enablement of local partner
9 forces, humanitarian assistance, and stabilization ef-
10 forts.

11 (7) Operation Kayla Mueller, named in her
12 honor and in pursuit of justice, resulted in the death
13 of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and symbol-
14 ized the Nation's enduring commitment to defeating
15 ISIS and bringing to justice those responsible for
16 the suffering endured by Kayla Mueller, Chief Petty
17 Officer Charles H. Keating IV, and countless other
18 victims, including members of ancient Christian,
19 Yazidi, Druze, Kurdish, and other communities per-
20 secuted by ISIS.

21 (8) Arizonans have contributed to this effort
22 through both military service and humanitarian ac-
23 tion, confronting ISIS through distinct but com-
24plementary expressions of might and mercy.

1 (9) Interstate 17 serves as a principal transpor-
2 tation corridor connecting central Arizona commu-
3 nities, including routes linking Phoenix to northern
4 Arizona and the Prescott region.

5 (10) This designation honors two Arizonans
6 whose lives were shaped in different communities,
7 connected by the same corridor, and ended con-
8 fronting the same evil.

9 (11) Honorary designations of Federal-aid high-
10 ways have long served as a means of recognizing
11 Americans whose lives and service reflect enduring
12 national values.

13 (12) The State of Arizona has honorarily des-
14 ignated Interstate 17 as the Arizona Veterans High-
15 way in recognition of the service and sacrifice of
16 America’s veterans, and this designation is intended
17 to complement that existing recognition.

18 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF MUELLER-KEATING MEMORIAL**
19 **HIGHWAY.**

20 (a) DESIGNATION.—The 26-mile portion of Inter-
21 state 17 in the State of Arizona between milepost 237
22 near New River and milepost 263 at the junction with
23 State Route 69 near Cordes Junction shall hereafter be
24 known and designated as the “Kayla Jean Mueller and
25 Charles H. Keating IV Memorial Highway”, to be com-

1 monly referred to as the “Mueller-Keating Memorial
2 Highway”.

3 (b) RULES OF APPLICABILITY.—The designation
4 under subsection (a)—

5 (1) shall complement, and shall not be con-
6 strued to alter, replace, diminish, or otherwise affect
7 the existing Arizona Veterans Highway designation
8 applicable to Interstate 17;

9 (2) shall be honorary in nature;

10 (3) shall not require any change to existing
11 highway names, maps, addresses, or navigation sys-
12 tems; and

13 (4) shall not impose any requirement for addi-
14 tional Federal funding.

15 (c) SIGNAGE; REPOSITORY.—The Secretary of Trans-
16 portation, in coordination with appropriate State and local
17 authorities, shall—

18 (1) permit the installation of suitable honorary
19 signage and permit memorialization at Sunset Point
20 Rest Area consistent with the designation under sub-
21 section (a); and

22 (2) include the designation in the appropriate
23 repository on the website of the Department of
24 Transportation.

○