

# State of Kansas

## Senate Chamber

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Chairman Petersen, Vice Chair Goddard, Ranking Minority Member Pettey and members of the Committee.

SB No. 138 An Act concerning roads and highways; designating a portion of US Highway 77 in Cowley County as Capt. Donald Root Strother memorial highway.

Strother Field, located on US Highway 77 between Winfield and Arkansas City in Cowley County is named after Capt. Donald R. Strother of Winfield who was the first Cowley County Army Air Corps pilot to lose his life in action in WWII.

Capt. Strother arrived in Hawaii on the morning of December 7, 1941 right after the Japanese attack. He died from combat injuries on 13 February 1942, just 68 days after Pearl Harbor was attacked. Capt. Strother was the youngest of four brothers in his country's service when the war took his life in the Far East Pacific Theater. He was piloting one of the nine B-17 Flying Fortresses about halfway across the Java Sea when Japanese fighter aircraft attacked his group of bombers. The lead B-17 was shot down. As Capt. Strother moved into the lead his B-17 was attacked and Capt. Strother was fatally wounded. Of the 9 B-17s Strother's plane was one of three to survive the mission. Capt. Strother was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Order of the Purple Heart by General Douglas MacArthur and presented to his 4 year old son.

The Army Air Corps training facility near Winfield was named Strother Field in his honor.

This bill request a short section of US Highway 77 on the East side of Strother Field be designated as the Capt. Donald Root Strother memorial highway. Thank you for allowing this bill a hearing and for your consideration

Senator Larry Alley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Alley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Senate Dist. 32, Winfield, Kansas