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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 3394

02/14/2022 Authored by Hansen, R.; Fischer; Feist; Ecklund; Franke and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Elections

1.1 A resolution

1.2 memorializing Congress to name the South St. Paul Post Office in honor of Officer

1.3 Leo Pavlak.

1.4 WHEREAS, Officer Leo Pavlak was killed by members of the infamous Barker-Karpis Gang

1.5 during a payroll robbery that occurred outside the South St. Paul Post Office on August 30, 1933;

1.6 and

1.7 WHEREAS, Officer Leo Pavlak was escorting two 21-year-old messengers for Stockyards

1.8 National Bank, Herbert Cheyene and Joseph Hamilton, from the South St. Paul Railway Station to

1.9 pick up payroll money for Swift and Company that had been shipped via train from the Federal

1.10 Reserve Bank in Minneapolis; and

1.11 WHEREAS, Officer Pavlak and the two messengers brought the payroll to the South St. Paul

1.12 Post Office where they put the envelopes of money into bags and set off for Swift and Company;

1.13 and

1.14 WHEREAS, at 9:45 a.m., just as the messengers left the post office carrying the money, a

1.15 black car with a siren blaring and smoke coming from the back of the car drove up to the post office.

1.16 Two men with guns jumped out the car and approached Officer Pavlak and yelled, "Stick 'em up!"

1.17 Pavlak threw up his hands and the two messengers dropped the bags of money; and

1.18 WHEREAS Officer Pavlak and another officer who arrived on the scene, Officer John

1.19 Yeaman, were both shot by the bandits. Officer Pavlak was killed instantly while Officer Yeaman

1.20 eventually recovered from his injuries; and

1.21 WHEREAS, Officer Pavlak had only been with the South St. Paul Police Department for

1.22 five months before his death at the age of 38, leaving behind his wife, Pauline, and two children,

1.23 Eleanor and Robert. His funeral was held September 1, 1933, at St. Augustine's Church and he was

1.24 buried at Calvary Cemetery; NOW, THEREFORE,

2.1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it requests that the
2.2 President and the Congress of the United States name the South St. Paul Post Office in memory of
2.3 Officer Leo Pavlak.

2.4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed
2.5 to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the
2.6 President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United
2.7 States House of Representatives, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.