



March 9, 2026

Representative Steven Jacob  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Minnesota State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Jacob,

On behalf of the City of Zumbrota, we respectfully submit this letter recommending that the portion of Minnesota Highway 58 that runs through the City of Zumbrota be designated as the **“Officer / Firefighter Gary L. Schroeder, Jr. Memorial Highway,”** in accordance with Minnesota Statute 161.139 (2025).

Officer Gary L. Schroeder, Jr. dedicated his life to serving and protecting the communities of southeastern Minnesota. Born on April 19, 1976, he earned his Law Enforcement degree from Rochester Technical College and began his public safety career with the Grand Meadow Police Department in 1999. He later served with the Alden Police Department, where he played a key role in establishing a school liaison program that strengthened relationships between law enforcement and local students.

Officer Schroeder eventually joined the Zumbrota Police Department, where he served the community with distinction for many years. Throughout his career, he was known as an exemplary officer who served with honor, dignity, and pride. He was deeply respected by his colleagues and admired by the community he served.

In recognition of Gary’s service and the challenges faced by first responders, the City of Zumbrota, with strong support from community members, established a PTSD Memorial in his name. The level of donations and the outpouring of support for the memorial are a testament to the respect Gary earned from local citizens, as well as from law enforcement officers and firefighters across the region.

Beyond his professional service, Gary was a devoted family man—a loving husband to his wife, Kim, and a proud father to his sons, Ethan, Colby, and Jacob. His commitment to both his family and his community reflected the very best qualities of public service.

Officer Schroeder also served as a firefighter, further demonstrating his commitment to protecting others. Like many first responders, he carried the weight of difficult and traumatic experiences encountered in the line of duty. After struggling with post-traumatic stress related to his service, Officer Schroeder passed away on April 17, 2023. His loss was deeply felt throughout the Zumbrota community and among the many departments where he served.

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Designating Highway 58 through Zumbrota as the “**Officer / Firefighter Gary L. Schroeder, Jr. Memorial Highway**” would serve as a lasting tribute to his dedication, sacrifice, and service to the people of Minnesota. It would also recognize the profound impact he had on our community and ensure that his legacy continues to be honored by future generations.

The City of Zumbrota respectfully requests your support in pursuing this designation through the Minnesota Legislature under Minnesota Statute 161.139. We believe this memorial highway would be a meaningful way to honor Officer Schroeder’s life, service, and sacrifice.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Todd Hammel  
Mayor,  
City of Zumbrota



Brian Grudem  
City Administrator,  
City of Zumbrota