

Pineville bridge named after firefighter Richard Sheltra, killed in the line of duty



A young Richard Sheltra (left) already wearing fireman gear, would grow up to answer that call. Photo on left provided by family friend. Photo on right courtesy the Pineville Volunteer Fire Depart WBTW

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A Pineville bridge has been named for Richard Sheltra, the 20-year-old firefighter killed in the line of duty in April 2016.

The N.C. Board of Transportation on Thursday unanimously approved naming the bridge on South Polk Street over Little Sugar Creek in honor of Sheltra.

Sheltra, Pineville's 2015 top rookie firefighter and the son of firefighters, was called to the April 30 fire just before 9 p.m. at the Edwin Watts golf store after lightning struck the Countryside shopping center on Pineville-Matthews Road. At some point, Sheltra's fellow firefighters lost track of him, but he was believed to be on his way out.

He never made it, and had to be pulled out. Sheltra died from inhaling combustibles, fire officials said.



NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Representative Scott Stone
District 105 - Mecklenburg**

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North Carolina to Name Bridge After Pineville Firefighter

Raleigh, NC – Today the North Carolina Board of Transportation unanimously approved the naming of the bridge on South Polk Street in honor of fallen firefighter Richard Sheltra of Pineville. Rep. Scott Stone (R – Mecklenburg), who represents a portion of Pineville, and Pineville Mayor Jack Edwards submitted a request earlier this year to honor the fallen hero by naming the recently completed Pineville bridge after him. Sheltra was only 20 years old when he gave his life fighting a three-alarm fire caused by lightning last April.

“Richard Sheltra gave his life in service of his community,” said Rep. Scott Stone. “It is fitting that he be remembered for this sacrifice.”

Rep. Stone thanks members of the Department of Transportation, Governor Cooper’s staff, and all those who helped facilitate this memorial. The honor is timely because this weekend is the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, where Richard Sheltra will be on the 2017 Roll of Honor. Read his entry [here](#).

“I’m grateful to all those who have supported this effort over the past year,” said Pineville Mayor Jack Edwards. “I am proud that Pineville will have a permanent memorial to Richard Sheltra.”

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