

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 115

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to El Monte Police Officer Donald Ralph Johnston Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 26, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 71, Chu. El Monte Police Officer Donald Ralph Johnston Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 10 as the El Monte Police Officer Donald Ralph Johnston Memorial Highway. The measure also would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing that special designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect appropriate plaques and markers.

WHEREAS, California Police Officer Donald Ralph Johnston was born in Wichita, Kansas, on November 11, 1954, to parents Loren (Corky) and Rosalyn Johnston; and

WHEREAS, When Don was four years old, his parents moved the family to La Puente, California where his father Corky joined ranks of the El Monte Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Officer Johnston graduated from La Puente High School in 1972, and became the proud father of a son Eric who later continued the Johnston legacy with the El Monte Police Department; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Officer Johnston became a reserve officer for the City of El Monte until he became a full-time officer in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Officer Johnston was honest, brave, and hardworking, and volunteered in the Adopt-a-Cop program at Wilkerson School; and

WHEREAS, Officer Johnston took his job seriously and was considered a guidance counselor to his peers; and

WHEREAS, Officer Johnston met his wife Ruth at the West Covina Calvary Chapel, and on September 1, 1989, they were married and began a life together; and

WHEREAS, On January 9, 1990, Officer Johnston responded to a call of a person trying to pass a bad check at a bank, and was shot and paralyzed by the suspect after selflessly pushing a bystander out of harm's way; and



WHEREAS, Officer Johnston was awarded the City of El Monte Medals of Valor, Distinguished Service, and Purple Heart, received commendations and awards from the United States Congress, Governor Deukmejian, Governor Wilson, the California State Legislature, the Office of Attorney General, the County of Los Angeles, the American Police Hall of Fame, and numerous other local and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, On January 29, 1991, Officer Johnston returned to work at the El Monte Police Department in a wheelchair, and was assigned to the Community Relations Unit as a detective handling missing persons investigations, all the while continuing his community involvement by mentoring disabled students; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Officer Johnston secured a position as the first regular police helicopter observer, and was able to experience the excitement of street patrol once again. Officer Johnston's work was so exceptional that he received many accolades for his service; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Officer Johnston developed the S.T.R.I.V.E (Success Through Recognizing Individual Volition and Excellence) program, and visited schools to tell his story and inspire students to overcome their own obstacles; and

WHEREAS, After retiring from active duty on September 1, 2001, Officer Johnston refused to quit, and with his letter of retirement, submitted a request to stay with the El Monte Police Department as a reserve officer, despite his declining health and chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, While Officer Johnston expressed gratitude to the City of El Monte for enabling him to remain productive and thanked his El Monte Police Department "family" for the support that made such a difference in his life, the EMPD is grateful that Officer Johnston was there to protect, to serve, and to inspire us all; and

WHEREAS, Officer Johnston passed away on November 22, 2002, at his home in Canyon Lake in the presence of his wife Ruth, his son Eric, and mother, Rosalyn; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the Legislature of the State of California honor the memory of El Monte Police Officer Officer Donald Ralph Johnston, and convey the Legislature's appreciation of his life of public service as a law enforcement officer on behalf of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby dedicates the portion of State Highway Route 10 that is between the intersection with State Highway Route 19 in the City of Rosemead, and the intersection with State Highway Route 605 in the City of Baldwin Park, as the El Monte Police Officer Donald Ralph Johnston Memorial Highway; and be it further



Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the signing requirements, for the state highway system, showing this special designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

