

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 32

Introduced by Senator Hollingsworth

March 19, 2007

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32—Relative to the Army Sergeant Brud Joseph Cronkrite Memorial Bridge.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 32, as amended, Hollingsworth. Army Sergeant Brud Joseph Cronkrite Memorial Bridge.

This measure would designate the overpass on State Highway Route 8 at Buckman Springs Road in Pine Valley the "Army Sergeant Brud Joseph Cronkrite Memorial Bridge."

The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Brud Joseph Cronkrite was born on June 24, 1981,
2 in El Cajon at El Cajon Valley Hospital; and
3 WHEREAS, Brud moved to Potrero, California, with his parents
4 in December of 1994, at the age of 13, and fell in love with the
5 family's 11-acre property, which he dreamed of someday inheriting
6 and living-at *on* with his future family; and
7 WHEREAS, Brud hiked Potrero Peak with his younger brother
8 Billy while living in Potrero; and

1 WHEREAS, Brud attended Mount Empire High School and
2 was on the wrestling team, and on the day of his graduation
3 virtually beamed with pride; and

4 WHEREAS, Brud joined the United States Army in March of
5 2001, attended boot camp and special training at Fort Knox,
6 graduating with honors and receiving an excellent in
7 marksmanship, and knew that he had found his calling in life; and

8 WHEREAS, Brud was stationed at Camp Casey in South Korea
9 for one year, and was then assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th
10 Armor, 1st Armored Division, in Friedberg, Germany, and he
11 served in Iraq for one year; and

12 WHEREAS, Brud's mother, whom he adored and called
13 "Mama" despite the affectionate teasing of his fellow soldiers,
14 wrote him a letter every week, without fail, which he would find
15 waiting on his bunk when he returned from missions, letters with
16 regard to which he stated "I can't tell in words what those letters
17 mean to me," and, although he did not have much money, he called
18 her whenever permitted; and

19 WHEREAS, During Brud's time serving abroad, Brud's family
20 sent him treats that included, on one occasion, a huge box of
21 Doritos and a yearly box of Girl Scout cookies; and

22 WHEREAS, In Christmas of 2003, Brud surprised his family
23 with a visit home, which his family will cherish for the rest of their
24 lives, during which he told them stories of how he lived in Iraq
25 and the things that the soldiers craved from home; and

26 WHEREAS, Brud's Division was scheduled to come home
27 when their assignment in Iraq was extended by the President; and

28 WHEREAS, Brud died in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 14, 2004,
29 three weeks after his stay had been extended, at the age of 22 years,
30 from injuries that he sustained on May 13, 2004, in Karbala, when
31 a rocket-propelled grenade *was* fired into a building near him
32 during a security patrol; and

33 WHEREAS, Brud was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple
34 Heart, and is buried at the Fort ~~Rosenerans~~ *Rosecrans*
35 *National Cemetery*, where his marker is Section Q-1252A; and

36 WHEREAS, Brud leaves behind his mother and father, Wendy
37 and William Cronkrite, his older sister Messina Hanson, his
38 younger brother William (Billy) Cronkrite, his nephew Robert
39 (Robby) Hanson, and an extended family that includes two

1 grandfathers, two grandmothers, five aunts, one uncle, and many
2 cousins; and

3 WHEREAS, Brud is featured on the Web site “Fallen Heroes”
4 and numerous messages have been left for him and his family by
5 his friends at home and abroad and by many fellow soldiers, who
6 hail him as being selfless, dependable, and a “great tanker, an
7 awesome soldier, and a close friend”; and

8 WHEREAS, Brud was the 775th American soldier killed in the
9 Iraq War and he and his family ~~gave~~ made the ultimate sacrifice
10 to keep all Americans safe; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby honors Army
13 Sergeant Brud Joseph Cronkrite and designates the overpass on
14 State Highway Route 8 at Buckman Springs Road in Pine Valley
15 as the “Army Sergeant Brud Joseph Cronkrite Memorial Bridge”;
16 and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
18 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
19 signage requirements for the state highway system, showing this
20 special designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
21 sources covering the cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
23 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
24 author for appropriate distribution.