

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 95

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

[Filed with Secretary of State July 12, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 32, 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.

WHEREAS, Brud Joseph Cronkrite was born on June 24, 1981, in El Cajon at El Cajon Valley Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Brud moved to Potrero, California, with his parents in December of 1994, at the age of 13, and fell in love with the family's 11-acre property, which he dreamed of someday inheriting and living on with his future family; and

WHEREAS, Brud hiked Potrero Peak with his younger brother Billy while living in Potrero; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Brud leaves behind his mother and father, Wendy and William Cronkrite, his older sister Messina Hanson, his younger brother William (Billy) Cronkrite, his nephew Robert (Robby) Hanson, and an extended family that includes two grandfathers, two grandmothers, five aunts, one uncle, and many cousins; and

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

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

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

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

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