

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 20

Introduced by Assembly Member Bill Berryhill

February 5, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to the Sergeant Howard King Stevenson Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 20, as introduced, Bill Berryhill. Sergeant Howard King Stevenson Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 99 in the City of Ceres as the Sergeant Howard King Stevenson Memorial Highway. The measure would also request that the Department of Transportation determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Howard King “Howie” Stevenson was
- 2 born on February 18, 1965, and on June 3, 1986, at 21 years of
- 3 age, became a peace officer with the Ceres Police Department on
- 4 June 3, 1986; and
- 5 WHEREAS, On January 9, 2005, while responding to a call for
- 6 assistance at a local liquor store, Sergeant Stevenson and fellow
- 7 officers were ambushed and met with a hail of gunfire from an
- 8 assault rifle; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Sergeant Stevenson died almost instantly; and

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Stevenson was the first police officer in
2 the 86-year history of the City of Ceres to be killed in the line of
3 duty; and

4 WHEREAS, On the morning of January 18, 2005, when
5 Sergeant Stevenson was laid to rest, more than 2,000 mourners,
6 mostly peace officers from jurisdictions statewide and as far away
7 as Boise, Idaho, gathered at the First Baptist Church in Modesto
8 to pay their final respects to a fallen hero; and

9 WHEREAS, Chief Art de Werk eulogized Sergeant Stevenson
10 in glowing terms and concluded his remarks with “and to you
11 Howie: secure your gun and hang up your duty belt. You’ve made
12 the difficult sacrifice as a hero, dying in the service of your fellow
13 man. You are cleared of your watch”; and

14 WHEREAS, Sergeant Stevenson is remembered affectionately
15 by his fellow officers as being a role model and mentor to younger
16 officers, and as being “a cops’ cop”; and

17 WHEREAS, Sergeant Stevenson is survived by his wife Kathy,
18 daughters Megan and Mikeala, and son Bryce; now, therefore, be
19 it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
22 sacrifices made by Sergeant Howard King Stevenson in the line
23 of duty, and hereby designates the portion of State Highway Route
24 99 in the City of Ceres, between exits 218 and 223, northbound
25 and southbound, as the Sergeant Howard King Stevenson Memorial
26 Highway; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
28 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
29 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the
30 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
31 sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Speaker of the Assembly transmit copies of
33 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
34 author for appropriate distribution.