

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 20

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 77

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to the Sergeant Howard K. Stevenson Memorial Interchange.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 17, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 20, Bill Berryhill. Sergeant Howard K. Stevenson Memorial Interchange.

This measure would designate the interchange at State Highway Route 99 and Whitmore Avenue in the City of Ceres as the Sergeant Howard K. Stevenson Memorial Interchange. 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.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Howard K. "Howie" Stevenson was born on February 18, 1965, and on June 3, 1986, at 21 years of age, became a peace officer with the Ceres Police Department; and

WHEREAS, On January 9, 2005, while responding to a call for assistance at a local liquor store, Sergeant Stevenson and fellow officers were ambushed and met with a hail of gunfire from an assault rifle; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Stevenson died almost instantly; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Sergeant Stevenson is remembered affectionately by his fellow officers as being a role model and mentor to younger officers, and as being "a cops' cop"; and

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

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the sacrifices made by

Sergeant Howard K. Stevenson in the line of duty, and hereby designates the interchange at State Highway Route 99 and Whitmore Avenue in the City of Ceres as the Sergeant Howard K. Stevenson Memorial Interchange; and be it further

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

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