

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 33

Introduced by Assembly Member Harkey

March 7, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 33—Relative to the Officer Richard T. Steed Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 33, as introduced, Harkey. Officer Richard T. Steed Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 5 between San Diego and San Clemente as the Officer Richard T. Steed Memorial Highway. This measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering those costs, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Richard (Rick) Thomas Steed was born on
2 December 27, 1947, to Henry and Martha Steed, and grew up in
3 Alexandria, Virginia with his brother Hank and sister Donna; and
4 WHEREAS, During the summers of 1964 to 1967, he managed
5 a community pool in Washington, D.C.; and
6 WHEREAS, After completing high school Rick enlisted in the
7 United States Marine Corps, where he served for eight years and
8 rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. During his service Rick spent
9 one tour of duty in Vietnam as a radio technician in the Recon
10 Platoon, and also served in Okinawa. Rick was awarded a Navy

1 Commendation Medal, a Good Service Medal, and a Combat
2 Action Ribbon. He also earned his jump wings; and

3 WHEREAS, While still on active duty Rick became interested
4 in law enforcement and became a reserve police officer with the
5 San Clemente Police Department in July 1975; and

6 WHEREAS, After receiving his associate of arts degree in
7 criminal justice from Saddleback Community College, Rick was
8 hired as a full-time police officer with the San Clemente Police
9 Department on June 6, 1977. Officer Steed attended the Police
10 Academy at Los Medanos College in Pittsburgh, California, where
11 he was elected class president; and

12 WHEREAS, Always quick with a smile or a joke, Rick was
13 very popular with everyone from his fellow officers to the citizens
14 he met on the job. Despite his sense of humor, Rick took his
15 position very seriously. He was a very quick learner, and was
16 described by a supervisor as a man who took pride in everything
17 he did; and

18 WHEREAS, On his final patrol shift, on November 29, 1978,
19 Officer Steed answered a call for medical aid in an adjacent beat.
20 Officer Steed announced his arrival to the dispatcher and indicated
21 that he saw a subject approaching from behind his vehicle. As he
22 exited the car and turned toward the subject, Officer Steed was
23 immediately, and without provocation, shot twice with a .38 caliber
24 handgun, and died from those injuries; and

25 WHEREAS, A massive manhunt involving multiple law
26 enforcement agencies resulted in apprehending the suspect and
27 retrieving the murder weapon. The suspect was incarcerated in a
28 state mental hospital; and

29 WHEREAS, Officer Steed is the only San Clemente police
30 officer to die in the line of duty; and

31 WHEREAS, Officer Steed was enshrined on Honor Rolls in the
32 Santa Ana Courthouse, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C., and
33 named in the Honor Roll and Officer Down Memorial Internet
34 Web sites, and on memorial bricks in the Vietnam section of the
35 Saddleback College Veterans Memorial and at the Marine Corps
36 Museum in Quantico, Virginia. Additionally, a 64-acre park and
37 sports complex was named the Richard T. Steed Memorial Park,
38 and a plaque prominently displayed at Park Semper Fi near the
39 San Clemente Pier; and

40 WHEREAS, Officer Steed was survived by his wife Kathy; and

1 WHEREAS, In recognition of Officer Steed's great
2 contributions, service, and sacrifice to the City of San Clemente,
3 it would be a fitting tribute to designate the portion of State
4 Highway Route 5 between San Diego and San Clemente as the
5 Officer Richard T. Steed Memorial Highway; now, therefore, be
6 it

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
8 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
9 portion of State Highway Route 5 from San Diego to San Clemente
10 as the Officer Richard T. Steed Memorial Highway; and be it
11 further

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

18 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
20 author for appropriate distribution.