

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 135

Introduced by Assembly Members Patterson and Conway

April 10, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 135—Relative to the Specialist Manuel Joaquin Holguin Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 135, as introduced, Patterson. Specialist Manuel Joaquin Holguin Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 245 in the County of Tulare as the Specialist Manuel Joaquin Holguin Memorial Highway. The 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 the cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, United States Army Specialist Manuel Joaquin
- 2 Holguin was born August 29, 1984, in Visalia, California, and was
- 3 the eldest of two sons of Manuel and Lydia Holguin. His brother
- 4 Javier was two years younger; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Joaquin, as he was known to his family, grew up
- 6 in the small foothill community of Elderwood, California, and
- 7 attended public schools in Woodlake, California, graduating from
- 8 Woodlake Union High School in June 2002; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Joaquin was an athlete, playing soccer and baseball
- 10 from the age of 5 years through high school. Living in the country,
- 11 he also became knowledgeable in the use and safe handling of

1 firearms and by the age of 12 years, he passed his hunter safety
2 course and was proficient with a 12-gauge shotgun; and

3 WHEREAS, In the fall of 2001, Joaquin decided to join the
4 United States Army, following in the footsteps of his grandfather
5 and uncles who had served in the United States Army during World
6 War II and the Vietnam War; and

7 WHEREAS, During his senior year of high school, Joaquin was
8 admitted into the United States Army's early enlistment program,
9 officially enlisting upon graduation from high school for a
10 three-year commitment on November 11, 2002, and was sent to
11 Fort Benning, Georgia, for boot camp; and

12 WHEREAS, Joaquin remained at Fort Benning, Georgia, for
13 advanced infantry training, graduating in March 2003 with a
14 designation as a mortarman. He also earned an award for being
15 the highest marksman with a rifle in his platoon and would go on
16 to continually score as an expert with a rifle and mortar; and

17 WHEREAS, Joaquin was assigned as a gunner and driver to the
18 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade of the 1st
19 Armored Division in Baumholder, Germany. His division left
20 Germany for Iraq in April 2003 and was assigned to an area of
21 southern Baghdad operating out of Camp Muleskinner, but also
22 saw action in Karbala and Al-Kut; and

23 WHEREAS, His division would remain in Iraq for 15 months
24 before returning to Germany, during which time, in this his first
25 tour of duty, Joaquin received the Combat Infantry Badge and
26 earned the rank of Specialist; and

27 WHEREAS, Joaquin received orders that his active duty
28 commitment was being extended. In November 2005, his brigade
29 was sent back to the area of southern Baghdad Iraq for a second
30 one-year tour of duty, and Joaquin volunteered to be part of the
31 advanced detachment whose job was to get things in order for the
32 arrival of the remainder of the brigade; and

33 WHEREAS, On July 15, 2006, his unit, doing mounted and foot
34 patrols, responded to an explosion at a marketplace, set up a
35 perimeter, and began to receive small arms fire. During the
36 firefight, an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated, killing
37 Joaquin and severely wounding another soldier; and

38 WHEREAS, Joaquin died one month before his 22nd birthday
39 and three months before his tour of duty would have been
40 completed; and

1 WHEREAS, Joaquin was awarded the Purple Heart and the
2 Bronze Star Medals for his active military service in the United
3 States Army for his actions, not only on that day, but for the entire
4 time he spent in Iraq; and

5 WHEREAS, Joaquin was also awarded the Army Commendation
6 Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Good Conduct Medal,
7 the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon,
8 the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the
9 Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the
10 Presidential Unit Citation Award for his two tours of duty in Iraq;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
13 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
14 portion of State Highway Route 245 (Millwood Drive) from
15 Avenue 364 to Avenue 398 near the town of Elderwood, in the
16 County of Tulare, as the Specialist Manuel Joaquin Holguin
17 Memorial Highway to honor Specialist Holguin's dedication and
18 sacrifice on behalf of his country; and be it further

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

25 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
26 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
27 for appropriate distribution.