

**Introduced by Senator Cannella**

March 13, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to the Soledad Correctional Officers Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 23, as introduced, Cannella. Soledad Correctional Officers Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 101 in the County of Monterey as the Soledad Correctional Officers Memorial Highway to honor John V. Mills, William C. Shull, Robert J. McCarthy, and Kenneth E. Conant with their names included in the designation of the 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 that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1     WHEREAS, Between January 1970 and May 1971, four  
2     correctional officers were attacked and killed in the line of duty  
3     at the Salinas Valley State Prison, formerly known as the Soledad  
4     State Prison, in a string of violent inmate uprisings; and  
5     WHEREAS, John V. Mills, born on July 19, 1944, in Riverside,  
6     California, grew up in Fresno, attended Long Beach State College,  
7     served two years in the Army, and had just been assigned to the  
8     medium security Y-Wing in relief of another guard who was on  
9     vacation; and  
10    WHEREAS, On July 19, 1970, Officer Mills was locked in the  
11    cell block with 95 inmates, and was attacked and beaten to death

1 at approximately 6:30 p.m. by three inmates in retaliation for the  
2 shooting deaths of three other inmates at the prison; and

3 WHEREAS, Officer Mills was a 14-month veteran correctional  
4 officer of the prison and resident of Monterey, who left a widow,  
5 Bernadette, and a son, Michael Lee; and

6 WHEREAS, William C. Shull, born on June 13, 1930, in  
7 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, attended Gettysburg High School, served  
8 22 years in the Army, retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant,  
9 and was awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, On July 23, 1970, Officer Shull was assigned to  
12 the recreational building 1-Yard exercise area in relief of another  
13 guard who was unable to work that day, and was found lifeless at  
14 9:30 a.m. by an inmate, having been beaten and stabbed to death  
15 by inmates in retaliation for the shooting deaths of three other  
16 inmates at the prison; and

17 WHEREAS, Officer Shull was a one-year veteran correctional  
18 officer of the prison and resident of Seaside, who left a widow,  
19 Kazuko, and four girls, Gracie, Sarah, Betty, and Rose; and

20 WHEREAS, Robert J. McCarthy, born on August 8, 1927, in  
21 Oklahoma, served 21 years in the Army, retiring with the rank of  
22 Sergeant; and

23 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1971, Officer McCarthy was  
24 conducting a count of the inmates in X-Wing, at 11:15 p.m., when  
25 an inmate, claiming he needed to mail a letter, lured Officer  
26 McCarthy to his cell door and stabbed him; and

27 WHEREAS, Valiant efforts by hospital staff and an inmate in  
28 the infirmary stabilized Officer McCarthy's condition, but he died  
29 after he was transferred to the military hospital at Fort Ord; and

30 WHEREAS, Officer McCarthy was a veteran correctional officer  
31 of the prison since 1966 and a resident of the City of Marina, who  
32 left a widow, Emily, and two children, Leon and Sylvia; and

33 WHEREAS, Kenneth E. Conant, born on December 6, 1921,  
34 in Denver, Colorado, attended the University of Denver and the  
35 University of Southern California; and

36 WHEREAS, On May 19, 1971, Mr. Conant, a correctional  
37 employee was sitting at his desk preparing to conduct a disciplinary  
38 committee hearing with several inmates and prison employees  
39 when they were attacked by two inmates with handmade knives,

1 and Mr. Conant was fatally stabbed while the other prison officials  
2 received minor injuries; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Conant was a 20-year veteran of corrections  
4 work and a resident of Salinas, who left a widow, Helen, and a  
5 son, Donald; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
8 portion of State Highway Route 101 between Exit 303 and Exit  
9 310 in the County of Monterey as the Soledad Prison Correctional  
10 Officers Memorial Highway to honor John V. Mills, William C.  
11 Shull, Robert J. McCarthy, and Kenneth E. Conant, whose names  
12 shall be included in the special designation of the highway; and  
13 be it further

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

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