

Introduced by Senator Fuller

May 12, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 119—Relative to the CHP Officer Gerald N. Harris Memorial Interchange.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 119, as introduced, Fuller. CHP Officer Gerald N. Harris Memorial Interchange.

This measure would designate the Interchange at State Route 99 and State Route 58 in the County of Kern, as the CHP Officer Gerald N. Harris Memorial Interchange. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs, that shall include the star of the Department of the California Highway Patrol, showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Officer Gerald Nathan Harris was born on
2 November 19, 1938, to Sam and Juanita Harris, in the City of
3 Bakersfield, California, and had four siblings: Alan, JoAnn, Melvin
4 and Phillip; and

5 WHEREAS, Officer Harris graduated from North High School
6 in 1957, and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps shortly
7 thereafter. After several years of service, he was honorably
8 discharged on December 5, 1965; and

9 WHEREAS, Officer Harris married the love of his life, Sherril,
10 on August 25, 1961, and had a wonderful daughter, Holly, born
11 December 31, 1965, whom he treasured dearly; and

1 WHEREAS, Officer Harris was a service salesman employed
2 by Three Way Chevrolet prior to becoming a California Highway
3 Patrol Officer; and

4 WHEREAS, Officer Harris graduated from the Department of
5 the California Highway Patrol Academy in 1967 with Academy
6 Class CTC-IV-67, and was assigned to the Santa Fe Springs Area,
7 where he served for approximately one year before being
8 transferred to the Bakersfield Area, where he spent the remainder
9 of his career; and

10 WHEREAS, Officer Harris, badge number 5554, was killed in
11 the line of duty on February 27, 1974, while directing traffic at an
12 intersection in the City of Bakersfield, where he was struck by a
13 hit-and-run driver; and

14 WHEREAS, The impact of the collision left Officer Harris with
15 a broken leg and other injuries, which, at the time, did not appear
16 to be life threatening; and

17 WHEREAS, When Officer Harris subsequently required special
18 medical treatment, the president of Continental Telephone in the
19 City of Bakersfield volunteered his company's medical plane to
20 take him to a hospital in San Francisco for special treatment, but
21 Officer Harris, unfortunately, died shortly thereafter from an
22 embolism; and

23 WHEREAS, Officer Harris is survived by his wife, Sherril, his
24 daughter, Holly, and two siblings, Alan and Melvin, and two
25 grandchildren, Tyler, born February 13, 1991, and Christian, born
26 June 9, 1994; and

27 WHEREAS, Officer Harris was a hardworking, dedicated officer
28 who loved his job and enjoyed the people with whom he worked,
29 and who, throughout his career, received several letters
30 commending him on his exemplary service, including one from
31 then Wasco Chief of Police, Robert Duke, and several thank you
32 letters from those whose lives he saved or changed dramatically;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Officer Harris was good natured, gracious, honest
35 and loyal, and would always go out of his way to help those in
36 need. In his spare time, he enjoyed weight lifting, the Police
37 Olympics, softball, volunteering to teach bicycle safety to children
38 in schools, and spending time with his family and friends; and

39 WHEREAS, In recognition of Officer Harris's great
40 contributions and sacrifice in serving the Department of the

1 California Highway Patrol and the citizens of California, it would
2 be fitting to designate the Interchange at State Route 99 and State
3 Route 58 in the County of Kern, California, in his honor; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
6 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
7 Interchange at State Route 99 and State Route 58 in the County
8 of Kern, as the CHP Officer Gerald N. Harris Memorial
9 Interchange; and be it further

10 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested
11 to determine the costs of erecting the appropriate signs, that shall
12 include the star of the Department of the California Highway
13 Patrol, consistent with the signing requirements for the state
14 highway system, showing these special designations, and upon
15 receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to
16 erect those signs; and be it further

17 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
18 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
19 for appropriate distribution.

20

21

22 **CORRECTIONS:**

23 **Digest Key—Page 1.**

24 **Text—Page 2.**

25

O