

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 65

Introduced by Assembly Member Brough

May 6, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 65—Relative to the James Mitchell “Mitch” Waller Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 65, as introduced, Brough. James Mitchell “Mitch” Waller Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 405 (Interstate 405) in the County of Orange as the James Mitchell “Mitch” Waller Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the costs of erecting the 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, James Mitchell “Mitch” Waller was born on
2 September 12, 1959, in Dallas, Texas, to James Russell Waller,
3 Jr. and Elizabeth Ann Waller. In 1965, Mitch Waller and his family
4 moved to Huntington Beach, California, where Mitch began his
5 education; and
6 WHEREAS, Mitch Waller joined the Boy Scouts of America
7 as a Cub Scout in his early school years and continued to participate
8 in the organization as a Boy Scout through high school, earning
9 the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout; and
10 WHEREAS, Mitch Waller graduated from Edison High School
11 in 1977. He continued his education at the University of California,

1 San Diego, and graduated in 1983 with a bachelor of arts degree
2 in Biochemistry and Cellular Biology and a minor in Economics;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Mitch Waller attended the Criminal Justice
5 Training Center at Golden West College, after which he began his
6 career in law enforcement with the City of Westminster Police
7 Department in 1984; and

8 WHEREAS, Mitch Waller married Sally Gouveia in 1994,
9 settled in Mission Viejo, and started his family; and

10 WHEREAS, While continuing his duties with the City of
11 Westminster Police Department, Mitch Waller attended Chapman
12 University School of Law in 1995. He completed his juris doctor
13 degree and passed the California Bar in 1999. In 2003, he was
14 selected to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National
15 Academy in Quantico, Virginia; and

16 WHEREAS, As a community leader, Mitch Waller rose through
17 the ranks to become Chief of Police for the Westminster Police
18 Department. He served the law enforcement and safety
19 communities for 27 years; and

20 WHEREAS, Mitch Waller remained committed to the
21 Westminster community and worked to develop positive staff
22 relations, communications, and infrastructure. Under his direction,
23 the new Westminster Police Department building was completed
24 in 2011, on time and under budget—an accomplishment of which
25 he was very proud; and

26 WHEREAS, Mitch Waller accepted an appointment to the office
27 of the Westminster City Manager in 2011, and he retired in 2012.
28 Throughout his exceptional career, Mitch had an impact on many
29 lives; and

30 WHEREAS, In his neighborhood in the community of Mission
31 Viejo, Mitch Waller was known for generosity with both his time
32 and talents. He was very active in his daughter Kiana's softball
33 teams, supporting them with everything from coaching assistance
34 to first aid. For his son, Chase, Mitch assisted with his training for
35 the high school cross-country and track teams, always there to
36 offer his encouragement and support; and

37 WHEREAS, The exemplary life of Mitch Waller ended
38 tragically in an accident on the morning of Friday, June 28, 2013,
39 at 53 years of age, while he was cycling with his good friend,

1 Kevin Beach, in the bike lane on State Highway Route 133,
2 heading toward Laguna Beach—a favorite destination; and

3 WHEREAS, The loss to the Waller family, his friends, and his
4 colleagues is immeasurable. Mitch Waller was an adviser, a
5 problem solver, and a hero to all; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
8 portion of State Highway Route 405 (Interstate 405) between
9 postmiles 1.525 and 6.459 in the County of Orange as the James
10 Mitchell “Mitch” Waller Memorial Highway; and be it further

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

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