

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 79

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 65

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 79—Relative to California Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 28, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 79, O'Connell. California Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall.

This measure would dedicate the portion of State Highway Route 166 from Route 101 near Santa Maria to Route 33 in the Cuyama Valley to the memory of California Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall and would specify that this portion of Route 166 shall be known as the CHP Officers Irvine and Stovall Memorial Highway. The measure also would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate highway markers or signs showing that special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect appropriate highway markers and signs.

WHEREAS, During the dark, early morning of February 24, 1998, a single patrol unit carrying California Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall, who were responding to an emergency call, plunged off the eastbound lane of State Highway Route 166, that had been washed out as a result of heavy rainfall, approximately 12 miles east of State Highway Route 101 along the Cuyama River; and

WHEREAS, The vehicle was carried downstream in the raging Cuyama River waters with mud and debris trapping the officers inside; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, the officers' patrol unit was first spotted upside down in the mud by a California Highway Patrol helicopter; and

WHEREAS, After more than four hours of rescue efforts, it was determined that, tragically, Officers Irvine and Stovall were deceased; and

WHEREAS, Officer Britt T. Irvine was born in Denver, Colorado, and he was 40 years old and had been a uniformed officer of the Department of the California Highway Patrol since May of 1983; and

WHEREAS, Officer Irvine was assigned to the El Centro, San Jose, and Marin areas before his assignment to Santa Maria in September of 1990; and

WHEREAS, Officer Irvine leaves behind two stepsons and one stepdaughter and his parents; and



WHEREAS, Officer Rick B. Stovall was born in Crescent City, California, and he was 39 years old and was appointed as an officer of the department in August of 1980; and

WHEREAS, Officer Stovall was assigned to the West Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Crescent City, and San Luis Obispo areas before his assignment to Santa Maria in February of 1991; and

WHEREAS, Officer Stovall leaves behind his wife, son, and daughter, and his father, who is a retired California Highway Patrol officer; and

WHEREAS, Both Officers Irvine and Stovall were known for their dedication to the Department of the California Highway Patrol and to the protection of the citizens of our state; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the portion of State Highway Route 166 from Route 101 near Santa Maria to Route 33 in the Cuyama Valley be dedicated to the memory of Officer Britt T. Irvine and Officer Rick B. Stovall who made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to the people of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby dedicates the portion of State Highway Route 166 from Route 101 near Santa Maria to Route 33 in the Cuyama Valley to the memory of California Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall; and be it further

Resolved, That that portion of State Highway Route 166 shall be known as the CHP Officers Irvine and Stovall Memorial Highway ; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of erecting the appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the special designation, and upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

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

