

Introduced by Senator Cox

June 22, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 50—Relative to the Raymond Carpenter Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 50, as introduced, Cox. Raymond Carpenter Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of Interstate Highway 80 in Placer County as the Raymond Carpenter Memorial Highway. The measure would also request that the Department of Transportation determine the cost for 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, Raymond Roy Carpenter was born on July 15,
2 1929, in the Wolf area of Placer County, between Auburn and
3 Grass Valley. He was the firstborn son to Guy Roy Carpenter and
4 Mamie L. Eddington. He was born in a small cabin with no inside
5 plumbing and no electricity. The Carpenter family moved shortly
6 after his birth to the Sullivan Ranch in Auburn, where Ray's father
7 was the foreman. Ray learned the ways of a ranch hand, working
8 with cattle, sheep, and the many different orchards at the ranch.
9 In 1943 the family moved again to 831 Old Route 5 (now Dairy
10 Road) in Auburn, a house which Ray later owned and which is
11 owned and resided in by Ray's sister Pearl Burkett; and

12 WHEREAS, Ray attended Placer High School and that is where
13 his interest in the military began. He was a member of the Junior
14 Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). Ray graduated from

1 Placer High and immediately joined the United States Air Force,
2 serving as an enlisted man specializing in weather forecast and
3 analysis. He was stationed in Chanut Air Force Base in Illinois,
4 later in Virginia during which he changed his career field to
5 security police. His last post was Elmendorf Air Force Base in
6 Alaska. Alaska was a territory and not a state at the time, and Ray
7 had the opportunity to be a homesteader, which meant that he
8 homesteaded a piece of property, building a cabin with his own
9 hands and living in it. Ray was an avid hunter and fisherman, so
10 this suited his lifestyle perfectly. Ray served during the Korean
11 War, and his service qualified him for membership in the Veterans
12 of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization. Ray was honorably
13 discharged from the United States Air Force as a Technical
14 Sergeant; and

15 WHEREAS, Ray joined the Department of the California
16 Highway Patrol (CHP) soon after his discharge from the United
17 States Air Force. He was initially assigned to Bakersfield. He
18 transferred to the Truckee area office and finally made his way to
19 the Auburn office. Ray was soon back at home in the Auburn area
20 patrolling the roads in his hometown. His widow Pat said that law
21 enforcement and the CHP suited Ray perfectly, due to his great
22 respect for authority. Ray's friend and coworker, retired officer
23 Jim Mayhorn, relates that he and Ray were also very active in the
24 early days of the Civil Air Patrol Squadron 60 in Auburn. Jim said
25 that Ray was an aircraft observer and would often go up and assist
26 with search and rescue missions in the area; and

27 WHEREAS, Other than his seven-year service in the United
28 States Air Force and the beginning of his CHP career, Ray lived
29 in the Auburn area his whole life; and

30 WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, Ray ran for the State Senate
31 seat for the district that covers Auburn, and narrowly lost in his
32 bid against the incumbent, Ron Cameron. His wife Pat said that
33 he ran for the Senate strictly because he disagreed with the
34 incumbent and felt he could do a better job; and

35 WHEREAS, Ray is described by all who knew him as the kind
36 of guy who would look to help another out. When he came across
37 someone less fortunate and in need, he would easily provide the
38 person a ride, or a burger at the local burger place, or even take
39 the person home for a couple of days to get the person back on his
40 or her feet; and

1 WHEREAS, Pat tells the story of Ray and Ken Lawton. Ray
2 pulled Ken over one Saturday morning for extremely high speed
3 on eastbound State Highway Route 80. The young United States
4 Navy sailor explained, after a short pursuit and being handcuffed
5 at gunpoint, that he was on a weekend pass and was attempting to
6 go home to Provo, Utah. Ray explained that even if Ken didn't
7 splatter himself and his motorcycle all over the Nevada desert and
8 made it all the way home, he would only have 20 minutes with his
9 family and have to turn around and come back. Ray convinced
10 Ken to stay. He let Ken sleep on the couch at his house, and took
11 him on a ride along with the patrol the next day. They became fast
12 friends. Ray was an inspiration to Ken and after his tour with the
13 United States Navy was over, Ken joined the Utah Highway Patrol
14 (UHP). Ken retired as a captain with the UHP a few years ago,
15 and he recounts that one of his prize possessions is Ray's service
16 revolver, presented to him by Pat after Ray's death; and

17 WHEREAS, On February 17, 1970, Ray Carpenter, a California
18 Highway Patrol officer and loyal servant to the State of California,
19 died after being shot by the driver of a vehicle he had stopped; and

20 WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Ray was a member of the
21 Eureka Lodge No. 16, the Auburn lodge of the Freemasons. Ray
22 reached the level of Master Mason within the lodge; and

23 WHEREAS, Ray held the rank of Commander with the VFW
24 (VFW Post 1942) and it was this post that performed funeral
25 services for Ray; and

26 WHEREAS, Ray loved motorcycles, and would often be seen
27 around town on his Suzuki, with wife Pat riding behind him; and

28 WHEREAS, Ray enjoyed outdoor life, and would often take
29 the whole family camping at Lake Valley Reservoir; and

30 WHEREAS, Ray cared for his elderly parents until the end of
31 their lives, moving them into a house nearby so that he could care
32 for them; and

33 WHEREAS, The house is still owned by his sister Pearl Burkett,
34 who describes Ray as her "protector," noting that she would not
35 be allowed to date anyone without Ray's approval. He would even
36 take her on some of his dates, just so she could have fun; and

37 WHEREAS, Ray Carpenter was a loyal servant to the State of
38 California for 13 years and seven months. He left behind his lovely
39 wife Patricia Carpenter and his daughter Mammie Carpenter. From
40 his first wife, Laurel Wibberley, he left behind five children: David

1 Allen Carpenter, Paul Raymond Carpenter, John Alvin Carpenter,
2 Debra Lynn Carpenter, and Beckey Joy Carpenter. He left behind
3 four stepchildren: Jeffrey Brian Wibberley, John Daniel Wibberley,
4 Greg Francis Wibberley, and Tommy Allen Wibberley. He also
5 left behind his sister Pearl Burkett; 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 westbound portion of Interstate Highway 80, between Rocklin
9 Road and State Highway Route 65, in Placer County, as the
10 Raymond Carpenter Memorial Highway; and be it further

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

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