

**Introduced by Senator Runner**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Knight)

December 2, 2008

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5—Relative to the Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 5, as introduced, Runner. Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 14 in the County of Los Angeles as the Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon 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, erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon was born
- 2 on November 5, 1985, in Thousand Oaks, California; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon, a 2004
- 4 graduate of Lancaster High School, left for boot camp in the Marine
- 5 Corps in San Diego shortly after graduating; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon always
- 7 wanted to be a Marine and loved the camaraderie and high sense
- 8 of purpose that is part of being in the Marine Corps; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon was
- 10 described by fellow members of the Marine Corps as having a
- 11 heart of a lion and this characteristic was displayed on many
- 12 occasions, including when he broke his foot during a boot camp

1 exercise called “the crucible” but still managed to courageously  
2 finish 10 miles of hiking and more miles of running with that  
3 broken foot; and

4 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon made rank  
5 quickly and obtained his corporal’s stripes before two years in  
6 service; and

7 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon was assigned  
8 to the 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), III  
9 Marine Expeditionary Force, in Okinawa, Japan; and

10 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon excelled in  
11 ANGLICO training and in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, As a liaison company member, Marine Corporal  
14 Christopher D. Leon was trained to quickly pinpoint the source of  
15 enemy fire from ground troops, helicopters, or attack plans and  
16 then to direct counter-fire; and

17 WHEREAS, On June 20, 2006, at 20 years of age, Marine  
18 Corporal Christopher D. Leon died from injuries suffered in combat  
19 in the western province of Al Anbar, Iraq; and

20 WHEREAS, At a memorial service for Marine Corporal  
21 Christopher D. Leon in Ramadi, Iraq, Marine Captain Adam  
22 Blanton praised him as “everything I could have asked for in a  
23 Marine”; and

24 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon was fiercely  
25 proud of the hazardous duty he performed in combat in defense  
26 of the United States of America; and

27 WHEREAS, Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon is survived  
28 by his parents James and Kathi Leon, grandparents Lucien and  
29 Rita Hemond, aunts and uncles LoriAnn and Robert Lumley and  
30 Paul and Margo Hemond, cousins Anna Lumley and Andrew  
31 Hemond, birth mom Nikki Ruhl, Nikki’s mother Sue Ruhl, and  
32 Nikki’s sister Tracy Rossi and family; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
35 hereby recognizes the duty and sacrifice made by Marine Corporal  
36 Christopher D. Leon for the people of the United States of America  
37 and hereby designates the portion of State Highway Route 14 in  
38 the County of Los Angeles, between Avenue M and Avenue L in  
39 the City of Lancaster, as the Marine Corporal Christopher D. Leon  
40 Memorial Highway; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
2 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the  
3 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the  
4 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
5 sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further  
6     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
7 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the  
8 author for appropriate distribution.

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