

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 17, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 159

Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro
(Coauthor: Senator Evans)

June 10, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 159—Relative to the ~~Deputy Sheriff Merrit W. Deeds Memorial Highway~~ *memorial highways*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 159, as amended, Chesbro. ~~Deputy Sheriff Merrit W. Deeds Memorial Highway~~. *Deputy Sheriffs Deeds and Del Fiorentino memorial highways*.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 116 in the County of Sonoma as the Deputy Sheriff Merrit W. Deeds Memorial Highway. *This measure would also designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 1 in the County of Mendocino as the Deputy Sheriff Ricky Del Fiorentino Memorial Highway.* The measure would request that the Department of Transportation determine the cost of appropriate signs showing ~~this~~ *each of those* special ~~designation~~ *designations* and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Merrit W. Deeds was born on February 23, 1943,
- 2 in Rohnerville, California, grew up in Sonoma County, and
- 3 graduated from Healdsburg High School in 1960; and

1 WHEREAS, Merrit W. Deeds joined the United States Army
2 in 1964 and served in Vietnam in the 81st Airborne Infantry
3 Division; and

4 WHEREAS, Merrit W. Deeds first served with the Sonoma
5 County Sheriff's Office in 1970 as a Summer Deputy and was
6 assigned to the Guerneville Substation; and

7 WHEREAS, After graduating from Sacramento State University,
8 Merrit W. Deeds moved to Alaska to attend the Alaska State
9 Trooper Academy and, upon graduation from the academy, became
10 an Alaska State Trooper; and

11 WHEREAS, Merrit W. Deeds moved back to California in 1975
12 with his wife and again became a Summer Deputy for the Sonoma
13 County Sheriff's Office on May 23, 1975; and

14 WHEREAS, On August 23, 1975, the Sonoma County Sheriff's
15 Office notified Merrit W. Deeds that he was to become a
16 permanent, full-time Deputy Sheriff with the sheriff's office; and

17 WHEREAS, Only hours after this notification, Deputy Sheriff
18 Deeds was patrolling State Highway Route 116 near Jenner when
19 he stopped to talk with three men who were parked on the side of
20 the road; and

21 WHEREAS, The driver of the vehicle fired two shots at Deputy
22 Sheriff Deeds, the second of which was fatal; and

23 WHEREAS, Reserve Deputy Rex Nance, who was off duty,
24 stopped to assist, and Deputy Sheriff Deeds was able to warn him
25 that the driver had a gun, possibly saving Reserve Deputy Nance's
26 life; and

27 WHEREAS, At 32 years of age, Deputy Sheriff Deeds sacrificed
28 his life in meritorious service for the residents of the County of
29 Sonoma and the State of California; and

30 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Deeds was survived by his wife
31 and two small daughters; and

32 *WHEREAS, Ricky Paul Del Fiorentino was born on May 28,*
33 *1965, in Napa California. He was one of six children, his brother,*
34 *Peter, and his four sisters, Anna Marie, Jaime, Debra Amaral,*
35 *and Anne Gibson; and*

36 *WHEREAS, Ricky Paul Del Fiorentino attended Napa High*
37 *School, Class of 1983, the University of Oklahoma, and the Napa*
38 *Valley College Police Academy; and*

39 *WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino began his law*
40 *enforcement career with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office,*

1 from 1988 to 1990, inclusive, then worked with the Fort Bragg
2 Police Department as a Patrol Officer and Detective, from 1990
3 to 2000, inclusive, and finally returned to the Mendocino County
4 Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff in 2000; and

5 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino was a defensive
6 tactics instructor, had been a member of the Mendocino County
7 Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics team, and had been
8 the president of the Coast Chapter of the Police Activities League;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino was a very visible
11 presence in the Fort Bragg community, and had also coached
12 wrestling at the local high school; and

13 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino was inducted into
14 the Napa High School Hall of Fame in 1998, and won a Gold
15 Medal in the 2003 California Police Olympics in both
16 Greco-Roman and Freestyle wrestling; and

17 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino enjoyed spending
18 time with his family and friends, enjoyed cooking, and loved the
19 outdoors, being an avid hunter, fisherman, and diver; and

20 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino had a "larger than
21 life" personality and went out of his way to make people feel at
22 ease and to solve problems. He often put the needs of others ahead
23 of his own and would reach out to help people that he did not
24 know; and

25 WHEREAS, On March 19, 2014, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino
26 responded to a shooting in Cleone, a small community a few miles
27 north of Fort Bragg in the County of Mendocino; and

28 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino spotted the suspect
29 vehicle stopped in the roadway in a residential area and was
30 immediately ambushed by the suspect who fired numerous rifle
31 rounds into Del Fiorentino's patrol vehicle, killing him. Seconds
32 later the suspect fired on a Fort Bragg Police Lieutenant who
33 killed the suspect in the gun battle; and

34 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino made the ultimate
35 sacrifice in the service of the residents of the County of Mendocino
36 and the State of California; and

37 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Del Fiorentino is survived by his
38 wife, Beth Marie Del Fiorentino, and his five children, and three
39 grandchildren; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the*
3 *portion of State Highway Route 1, at Jenner, and State Highway*
4 *Route 116 from State Highway Route 1 to Armstrong Woods*
5 *Road, east to the intersection of State Highway Route 116 and*
6 *Austin Creek Road, in the County of Sonoma as the Deputy Sheriff*
7 *Merrit W. Deeds Memorial Highway; and be it further*

8 *RESOLVED, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion*
9 *of State Highway Route 1, between milepost marker 62.0*
10 *southbound and milepost marker 65.0 northbound in the County*
11 *of Mendocino as the Deputy Sheriff Ricky Del Fiorentino Memorial*
12 *Highway; and be it further*

13 *Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested*
14 *to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the*
15 *signing requirements for the state highway system showing this*
16 ~~*special designation each of these special designations*~~ *and, upon*
17 *receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the*
18 *cost of the signs for which the donations were made, to erect those*
19 *signs; and be it further*

20 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
21 *of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author*
22 *for appropriate distribution.*