

- 4) The author or co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located, and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.
- 5) The segment of highway being named must not exceed five miles in length.
- 6) The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.
- 7) The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.

This resolution:

- 1) Recounts the life and career of Deputy Sheriff Dighton Little.
- 2) Designates the portion of State Route 99 from the East Hammer Lane overpass, at postmile 22.922, to the Armstrong Road overpass, at postmile 27.504, in the County of San Joaquin, as the San Joaquin County Deputy Sheriff Dighton Little Memorial Highway.
- 3) Requests Caltrans to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose of the resolution.* According to the author, “This resolution is necessary to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of San Joaquin County Deputy Sheriff Dighton Little. Raised in Stockton, California, Deputy Little dedicated his career to public safety after being sworn in in 1979. He served with distinction across multiple divisions, including Custody, Patrol, and Detective, and was a charter member of the county’s Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. On October 20, 1989, Deputy Little was tragically killed in the line of duty while serving a search warrant in Ripon. His death underscores the dangers faced by law enforcement officers in the course of their duties. Designating a portion of State Route 99 as the San Joaquin County Deputy Sheriff Dighton Little Memorial Highway ensures his legacy is permanently recognized and honored by the community he served.”

- 2) *Background.* Dighton Little, the son of a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, was raised in Stockton, California, and graduated from Lincoln High School. After two years in the U.S. Army, Little earned a degree in Criminal Justice at California State University at Sacramento. He was sworn in as San Joaquin County Deputy Sheriff in 1979.

Starting his career in the Custody Division, Deputy Little soon moved to Patrol. He worked in a special narcotics section in 1982 and advanced to the Detective Division in 1984. As a detective, he worked in the burglary and child-abuse units before being transferred to robbery/homicide. When the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office SWAT team was formed in 1986, Dighton volunteered and became a charter member.

Dighton served on the board of directors for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of San Joaquin County, and volunteered as a big brother himself. He also served on the board of directors for the "Bacon Bash", an annual football game between the Sheriff's Office and the Stockton Police Department, and played for charity.

On October 20, 1989, the SWAT team was assigned to serve a search warrant for drugs in Ripon, California. During the service of the warrant, an exchange of gunfire occurred, and Deputy Little was shot and killed. Deputy Little was survived by his mother, father, and brother. He is remembered for his hard work and dedication to professionalism in law enforcement.

- 3) *Consistent with committee policy.* This resolution is consistent with committee policy.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.)

SUPPORT:

Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)

OPPOSITION:

None received.

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