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CONSENT

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Bill No: SCR 121  
Author: Dahle (R), et al.  
Introduced: 2/11/26  
Vote: 21

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/7/26

AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson,  
Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener

NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

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**SUBJECT:** The Purple Heart Community

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This resolution designates the portion of State Route 162, from postmile 065.381 to postmile 066.792, in the County of Glenn as the Purple Heart Community.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law assigns the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

Senate Transportation Committee Policy:

The committee has adopted a policy regarding the naming of state highways or structures. Under the policy, the committee will consider only those resolutions that meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) The person being honored must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway or structure is located.

- 2) The person being honored must be deceased or a former elected public official who has been out of office for at least 25 years.
- 3) The naming must be done without cost to the state. Costs for signs and plaques must be paid by local or private sources.
- 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 City of Willows' pride in and commitment to honoring and supporting our nation's veterans, particularly those who have been wounded or have made the ultimate sacrifice in combat.
- 2) Designates the portion of State Route 162, from postmile 065.381 to postmile 066.792, in the County of Glenn as the Purple Heart Community.
- 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**

*Purpose of the resolution.* According to the author, "The Purple Heart Community designation honors the service and sacrifice of the men and women from Glenn County who were wounded or killed in combat while serving our nation. By recognizing this segment of State Route 162 in the City of Willows as a Purple Heart Community, this resolution provides a visible tribute to local veterans and

reinforces the community's commitment to honoring those who have sacrificed in defense of our country.”

*Background.* The Purple Heart is a military decoration awarded to those wounded or killed while serving with the U.S. military. In July 2024, the City of Willows passed a proclamation officially designating itself as a Purple Heart City. According to Willows, this designation reflects the City's ongoing commitment to recognizing and honoring the sacrifices of its combat-wounded veterans.

In September of 2025, the City of Willows passed Resolution 09-2023, expressing the City's support for the installation of Purple Heart Trail signage on California Highway 162 at the east and west entrances to the City. The Purple Heart Trail is a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to Purple Heart medal recipients. The Purple Heart Trail is a nationwide program that seeks to provide a visual reminder to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society. Signs placed at various locations annotate those roads and highways where legislation has been passed to designate parts of the national road system as The Purple Heart Trail. The actual format and design of the signs vary from state to state. There are currently designated sections in 45 states as well as Guam.

*Consistent with Senate Transportation Committee policy.* This resolution is consistent with committee policy.

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

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 4/20/26)

None received

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 4/20/26)

None received

Prepared by: Isabelle LaSalle / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121  
4/21/26 16:19:43

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