

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 155
Author: Jones (R)
Introduced: 4/8/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/9/26

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

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Officer Kirk Leland Johnson Memorial Interchange

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution designates the interchange at State Route 52 and Interstate 805 in the County of San Diego, as the Officer Kirk Leland Johnson Memorial Interchange.

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 life and career of San Diego Police Officer Kirk Leland Johnson.
- 2) Designates the interchange at State Route 52 and Interstate 805 (PM 3.761), in the County of San Diego, as the Officer Kirk Leland Johnson Memorial Interchange.
- 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, “Kirk Leland Johnson had a lasting impact during his service with the San Diego Police Department. His desire to do the best he could each day earned him the respect of his peers for his integrity and commitment to public safety. Officer Johnson proudly served his country in the United States Army before continuing his service in law enforcement, where he

remained dedicated to protecting his community until his life was tragically cut short in the line of duty. We wish to honor his memory by designating the I-805 and SR-52 interchange as the Officer Kirk Leland Johnson Memorial Interchange.”

Background. Kirk Leland Johnson was born on January 12, 1957, in the community of Elmhurst, Illinois, where he was raised with strong values of faith and service. After graduating from high school in 1975, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving with distinction in Hawaii and rising to the rank of sergeant in the infantry. During his military service, Johnson earned an associate degree from the University of Maryland.

In January 1980, Johnson was hired by the San Diego Police Department where he distinguished himself during his training at the police academy, graduating third among a class of 40 officers.

After graduating from the police academy, Officer Johnson was assigned to the Northern Division of the San Diego Police Department as a patrol officer, where he quickly established himself as a dedicated and proactive member of the force. Officer Johnson’s supervisors consistently noted his strong work ethic and above-average performance. Throughout Officer Johnson’s years of service, he routinely volunteered for radio calls up to the final moments of his shift. He was awarded a Commanding Officer’s Citation for an outstanding arrest.

Officer Johnson’s watch ended after three years of service to the San Diego community when he died in the line of duty on February 20, 1983, at 26 years of age. The incident occurred while Officer Johnson was conducting his patrol duties in the early morning hours, in the vicinity of Marion Bear Memorial Park near State Route 52 and Genesee Avenue. Colleagues remember Officer Johnson as a good man, a good cop, and a person of deep faith who valued his relationships with family, friends, and fellow officers. Officer Johnson’s life and service left a lasting impact on his family, his fellow officers, and the San Diego community.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/16/26)

Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/16/26)

None received

Prepared by: Isabelle LaSalle / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121

6/18/26 11:47:31

**** **END** ****