

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

SCR 155 (Jones) – As Introduced April 8, 2026

**SENATE VOTE:** 34-0

**SUBJECT:** Officer Kirk Leland Johnson Memorial Interchange

**SUMMARY:** Designates the interchange at State Route 52 and Interstate 805 in the County of San Diego as the Officer Kirk Leland Johnson Memorial Interchange and requests that the California Department of Transportation determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs.

**EXISTING LAW:** Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans determine the cost of appropriate signage consistent with requirements for the state highway system and only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

**COMMENTS:** *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.”

Born on January 12, 1957, in Elmhurst, Illinois, Kirk Leland Johnson was raised with a strong foundation in faith and public service. Following his high school graduation in 1975, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served with distinction as an infantry sergeant stationed in Hawaii. During his military tenure, he demonstrated a commitment to self-improvement by earning an associate degree from the University of Maryland.

In January 1980, Officer Johnson joined the San Diego Police Department. He immediately distinguished himself during his police academy training, graduating third in a class of 40. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Department's Northern Division as a patrol officer, where he quickly earned a reputation for his proactive approach, strong work ethic, and consistent, above-average performance. Throughout his three years of service, Officer Johnson was noted for his unwavering dedication, often volunteering for radio calls until the final moments of his shift. His exemplary work was formally recognized with a Commanding Officer's Citation for an outstanding arrest.

Colleagues remember Officer Johnson as a man of deep faith and integrity who deeply valued his relationships with family, friends, and fellow officers. On February 20, 1983, at the age of 26, Officer Johnson was killed in the line of duty while performing patrol duties in the early morning hours near Marion Bear Memorial Park, in the vicinity of State Route 52 and Genesee Avenue.

Officer Johnson's service left a lasting impact on the San Diego community and his fellow officers. His sacrifice serves as a solemn testament to the risks borne by those in law enforcement, and this memorial dedication ensures that his contributions and sacrifice are remembered by all who pass this location.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Peace Officers Research Association of California

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Aimee Maxwell-Jolly / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093