

Date of Hearing: January 8, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

SCR 74 (Nguyen) – As Amended June 27, 2023

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: Officer Jon Coutchie Memorial Bridge

SUMMARY: Designates the Aliso Creek Bridge on State Highway Route 1 in the County of Orange as the Officer Jon Coutchie Memorial Bridge. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from non-state sources to cover that cost, to erect those signs.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways. This includes 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: Jon Steven Coutchie was born on October 2, 1971, in Tucson, Arizona and, shortly thereafter, moved with his family to Southern California. After his distinguished service in the military and his honorable discharge from the United States Army, Jon realized that he wanted to continue his service to the public and applied for a part-time jailer position with the Laguna Beach Police Department.

Jon showed great enthusiasm for his job and excelled with each assignment. Seeing Jon's great potential, the Laguna Beach Police Department sponsored Jon through the Goldenwest Police Academy in 2008.

Jon successfully completed his police officer training in March 2009 and, upon his graduation, was immediately sworn in as a Laguna Beach police officer. Jon showed a passion for traffic issues and displayed expertise in accident investigation. Following this interest, Jon applied and was selected for a coveted motor officer position with the Laguna Beach Police Department in March 2013.

On the evening of September 21, 2013, while traveling northbound on the Pacific Coast Highway in an attempt to locate a vehicle that was being driven recklessly and that had eluded another officer, Jon was involved in a collision that took his life. One of the responding officers, upon seeing Jon had not survived the collision, draped an American flag over his body, which is an honor befitting a hero who had served his country and his community.

The Laguna Beach Police Department will forever miss and love Jon. In recognition of Police Officer Jon S. Coutchie's service to this country and the City of Laguna Beach, it would be fitting to designate the Aliso Creek Bridge in his honor.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Aimee Anspach / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093