

Date of Hearing: June 22, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SCR 22 (Morrell) – As Introduced February 26, 2015

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: CAL FIRE Firefighter Christopher Lee Douglas Memorial Highway.

SUMMARY: Designates a segment of Interstate 10 (I-10) in Banning as the “CAL FIRE Firefighter Christopher Lee Douglas Memorial Highway.” Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Recounts the lifetime accomplishments of Christopher Lee Douglas, a firefighter with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and an 11-year veteran of the United States Air Force.
- 2) Designates a five-mile segment of I-10 in Banning between the 22nd Street undercrossing to the Malki Road undercrossing as the “CAL FIRE Firefighter Christopher Lee Douglas Memorial Highway.”
- 3) Requests that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the special designation and, upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering that 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 only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

COMMENTS: Firefighter Douglas was an 11-year veteran of the United States Air Force and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. During his distinguished Air Force career, Mr. Douglas earned the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, the Air Force Training Ribbon, and the National Defense Service Medal. While in the Air Force, Firefighter Douglas began his firefighting career as a volunteer firefighter paramedic and later, upon graduation from the Company Officer's Academy, received the Carpe Diem Award for leadership. Mr. Douglas joined CAL FIRE in 2004 and was eventually promoted to Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic in 2013.

On July 5, 2013, Firefighter Douglas was leaving the scene of a medical emergency when he was struck by a pickup truck. Hours later he succumbed to injuries sustained as a result of that accident. Firefighter Douglas leaves behind his wife and two young children.

This resolution designating a specific portion of I-10 in honor of Firefighter Douglas acknowledges the significant role he played in his community.

Related legislation: Late last session, the author introduced SCR 141, an identical resolution to SCR 22. SCR 141 was not heard in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee and was sent to the desk without further action.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Janet Dawson / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093