

Date of Hearing: June 22, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SCR 24 (Wolk) – As Introduced February 27, 2015

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** Lieutenant Colonel James C. Warren Memorial Interchange

**SUMMARY:** Designates the interchange of Interstate 80 (I-80) and Interstate 505 (I-505) in Solano County as the "Lieutenant Colonel James C. Warren Memorial Interchange."

Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Recounts the lifetime accomplishments of James Warren, a decorated war veteran.
- 2) Designates the interchange of I-80 and I-505 Solano County as the "Lieutenant Colonel James C. Warren Memorial Interchange."
- 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. This includes 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:** James C. Warren was born on August 16, 1923, in Gurly, Alabama. He left the area at age 15 when his mother sent him to Island Park, Illinois to attend high school. Mr. Warren enlisted in 1943 with the U.S. Army Air Force's Tuskegee Airmen unit. He was assigned to Indiana's Freeman Field, where he completed training to qualify as both a navigator and bombardier. Lt. Colonel Warren was one of the 101 black officers at Freeman Field in 1945 who were arrested and charged with mutiny because they refused to comply with base regulations excluding black officers from a base officers' club. The Air Force cleared the service records of all 101 officers in 1995.

After serving with the 477th Bombardment Group of the Tuskegee Airmen, Lt. Colonel Warren spent 35 years with the U.S. Air Force, for which he flew 173 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam. He earned numerous awards during this time, including the Congressional Gold Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Lt. Colonel Warren graduated from the University of Nebraska and ultimately became the oldest individual to earn a pilot's license at the age of 87 years. Lt. Colonel Warren distinguished himself through his community leadership and participation in the Nut Tree Airport's Young Eagles Program, as well as his membership with the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundation, the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated. Lt. Colonel

Warren passed away on May 17, 2014, at the age of 90 following a battle with cancer. This resolution designating this specific highway interchange in honor of Lieutenant Colonel James C. Warren acknowledges the significant Lt. Colonel Warren played in his community and for his country.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093