

Date of Hearing: September 13, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SCR 60 (Nguyen) – As Amended July 17, 2017

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Thi Hanh Nhon’s Disabled Veterans Memorial Highway

**SUMMARY:** Designates a portion of Interstate 405 in Orange County as the “Lt. Colonel Nguyen Thi Hanh Nhon’s Disabled Veterans Memorial Highway.” Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Recounts the life and career of Lt. Colonel Nguyen Thi Hanh Nhon.
- 2) Designates the portion of Interstate 405 northbound in the County of Orange between Magnolia Street, approximately post mile 15.210, and Brookhurst Street, approximately post mile 13.780, as the “Lt. Colonel Nguyen Thi Hanh Nhon’s Disabled Veterans Memorial Highway.”
- 3) Requests that the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 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 non-state 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 resolution requests that Caltrans only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

**COMMENTS:** The author seeks to honor Lt. Colonel Nguyen Thi Hanh Nhon, who recently passed away at the age of 90. According to the author, Lt Colonel Nguyen helped refugees adjust to life in America, assisted disabled Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam who were struggling financially, raised awareness of wounded soldiers in Vietnam and educated students about the impact of the Vietnam War. SCR 60 recognizes these achievements by Lt. Colonel Nguyen and names part of a highway in the County of Orange in her honor.

The resolution details Lt. Nguyen’s life growing up in Hue, Vietnam as the daughter of a field marshal of the Nguyen Dynasty. In 1950, when the French came to Vietnam, they formed the Corps of Female Assistants, with office workers, nurses and social workers. Nguyen enlisted and served. The corps later became the Corps of Female Soldiers and served the regime of the South Vietnam Armed Forces until 1975, and Nguyen served as a Lt. Colonel of the Air Force.

After the fall of Saigon in 1975, Lt. Colonel Nguyen was imprisoned in a reeducation camp for nearly five years, and after her release she struggled to work and support her family. In 1990, she came to the United States and settled in the City of Garden Grove in Orange County. In Garden Grove, Lt. Nguyen spent years helping others from Vietnam come to the United States and get settled into a new life. Additionally, she helped wounded veterans remaining in

Vietnam, providing assistance to over 22,000 disable veterans. Specifically, she served as Vice-President of the Mutual Society of Political Prisoners, and most recently as President of the Humanitarian Operation Mutual Society for Vietnam Wounded Veterans.

In addition to her work with veterans, Lt. Colonel Nguyen helped educate students about the Vietnam War and contributed her life story to the University of California oral history project. This resolution honors her dedication to improving the lives of veterans of the Vietnam War and Vietnamese Americans in Orange County and throughout the State of California.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

Central Coordinate Republic of the Vietnamese Armed Forces in Southwestern U.S.A.  
City of Garden Grove  
RVN Special Operations Association  
Unknown Soldiers Group Republic of Vietnam  
Vietnamese American Federation of Southern California  
Vietnamese National Military Academy Alumni Association

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Melissa White / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093