

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

SCR 117 (Dahle) – As Introduced February 9, 2026

**SENATE VOTE:** 37-0

**SUBJECT:** John Hughes Memorial Bridge

**SUMMARY:** Designates the Butte City Bridge on State Route 162, in the County of Glenn, as the John Hughes Memorial Bridge and requests the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources to cover 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 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,* “The John Hughes Memorial Bridge honors the legacy of a dedicated community member whose work and commitment to local infrastructure helped support the economic and civic life of Butte City and the surrounding region. This designation recognizes Mr. Hughes’ lasting contributions to Northern California and serves as a visible reminder of the individuals whose efforts have strengthened our transportation network and rural communities.”

John Hughes was a dedicated professional in California’s construction industry whose career spanned several of the state’s most significant infrastructure projects. He was known for his technical ingenuity, commitment to safety, and mentorship of the next generation of tradespeople. Mr. Hughes’ legacy is defined by his contributions to California's bridges and the community that builds them.

He began his career in agriculture before transitioning to bridge construction, where he quickly established a reputation for integrity and leadership. Starting with canal and dam projects in Glenn County under Mark Sawyer, he rose to become a highly respected figure in the field.

John worked on several major bridge projects, including projects in the City of Watsonville with C.C. Meyers, Stony Creek Bridge, the Carquinez Bridge Expansion, which won a safety award in 2006, Rainbow Bridge, Galena Creek Bridge, which won safety and ahead-of-schedule awards in 2011, Spanish Creek Bridge, a safety award recipient, and the San Francisco International Airport Interchange Flyovers.

Beyond his labor on site, Mr. Hughes made a lasting contribution to the trade through his invention of “The Hughes Bracket.” Though never patented, this tool became an industry standard for locking down falsework and securing tie beams. It remains a testament to his technical ingenuity and his commitment to improving the safety and efficiency of bridge construction.

A staunch advocate for the trades, Mr. Hughes proved that a successful and meaningful career is possible through discipline and hard work. He was a prolific mentor, notably teaching the trade to his own son and working alongside him on several bridge projects.

Throughout his career, he earned numerous safety awards and was frequently called upon by foremen and supervisors for his deep technical insights. Known for his hospitality, Mr. Hughes was famous for feeding his work crews from his own grill, fostering a sense of camaraderie and care among the workers who built California's roads.

Following his passing, his wife, Sheri, established the John Hughes Memorial Scholarship. This fund supports young people pursuing trade schools or construction management, ensuring that their belief in the dignity of hard work continues to benefit future generations of Californians.

John Hughes represented the values that define the California construction community. Exceptional work ethic, pride in craft, and a deep-seated loyalty to the people beside him.

Designating a portion of the state highway system in his honor serves as a tribute to a man who literally built the paths upon which Californians travel today.

#### **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

##### **Support**

None on file

##### **Opposition**

None on file

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