

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

SCR 119 (Dahle) – As Introduced February 10, 2026

**SENATE VOTE:** 37-0

**SUBJECT:** Gordon Lee Bordsen Memorial Highway

**SUMMARY:** Designates a specified portion of State Route 20 in the County of Sutter as the Gordon Lee Bordsen Memorial Highway and requests that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate 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 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 Gordon Lee Bordsen Memorial Highway recognizes the life and public service of Gordon Bordsen, a longtime Caltrans right-of-way agent and community leader whose work helped shape key transportation corridors across Sutter, Colusa, Nevada, and Yuba Counties. Designating this portion of State Route 20 honors his decades of service to California’s highway system and his enduring commitment to the communities of Northern California.”

Gordon Lee Bordsen, was a lifelong resident of Sutter County whose 93-year legacy is defined by his extensive contributions to California’s infrastructure and his unwavering commitment to community service. A veteran, professional, and civic leader, Mr. Bordsen’s work was instrumental in the physical and cultural development of the Sacramento Valley.

Mr. Bordsen enjoyed a distinguished career with the Department of Water Resources and later Caltrans, where he specialized as a right-of-way agent. His technical expertise and agricultural background were vital to the expansion of Northern California’s transportation network.

He appraised and acquired the property necessary to widen Highway 20 into a four-lane highway in Nevada County, as well as property for Interstate 5 and Highway 20 in Colusa County. His efforts were key to the development of the Skyway in Chico.

Utilizing his knowledge of heavy machinery from his upbringing on a farm, he operated the equipment to take the very first soil samples used to assess the feasibility of the Oroville Dam.

He demonstrated a commitment to local history by salvaging copper lightning rods from the old Meridian bridge during its demolition, ensuring they were donated to the Sutter County and Sacramento Valley Museums rather than being scrapped.

An Army veteran and an active participant in student government during his time at Sutter Union High School, Yuba College, and the College of the Pacific, Mr. Bordsen was a pillar of his local community.

Later in life he was known as the "Voice of the Sutter Huskies" where he served as the public address announcer for Sutter Union High School football games for more than 25 years.

A dedicated member of the Marysville Rotary Club, he served as both Club President and District Governor for District 5190 and was honored as a multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

He was deeply involved in the Lutheran Church, serving on the Church Council and call committees, and spent many years on the local Young Life Board alongside his wife, Carol Jean.

He was also an active community member and a charter member of the Snowshoe Thompson Lodge, Sons of Norway.

Designating a segment of Highway 20 serves as a symbolic connection between the counties of Colusa, Nevada, Sutter, and Yuba. This designation honors the professional legacy of Gordon Lee Bordsen in the regions where his work occurred and encompasses the community and family homestead where he spent his life.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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