

Date of Hearing: March 19, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

ACR 169 (Mathis) – As Amended February 13, 2018

SUBJECT: Deputy Sheriff Scott Ballantyne and Sheriff's Pilot James Chavez Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: Designates a portion of State Highway Route 190 in the County of Tulare as the "Deputy Sheriff Scott Ballantyne and Sheriff's Pilot James Chavez Memorial Highway".

Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Recounts the life and career of two members of the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Sheriff Scott Ballantyne and Sheriff's Pilot James Chavez.
- 2) Designates the four-mile portion of State Highway Route 190 between its intersection with Pleasant Oak Drive and just south of HQ Drive, in the County of Tulare between post mile 22.53 and post mile 26.53, as the "Deputy Sheriff Scott Ballantyne and Sheriff's Pilot James Chavez Memorial Highway".
- 3) Requests the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing each of these special designations, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, and, upon receiving donations from non-state sources sufficient to cover the cost of the signs for which the donations were made, 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 two members of the Tulare County Sheriff's Office who died in a tragic plane accident on February 10, 2016, in Springfield, California while engaged in aerial surveillance. Specifically:

Deputy Sheriff Scott Ballantyne was born in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and raised in Visalia where he graduated from Redwood High School. He attended the College of the Sequoias and Fresno State College. Officer Ballantyne joined the Tulare County Sheriff's Office in 1989 and held numerous positions. In 2014, he was selected to serve in the Sheriff's aerial surveillance program and greatly enjoyed this assignment. He developed a close friendship with his pilot, Officer James Chavez. Officer Ballantyne is survived by his mother, brother, and his two sisters.

Sheriff's Pilot James Chavez was born and raised in Stockton, California, graduating from St. Mary's High School. After high school, he attended Pacific Crest Outward Bound School and eventually graduated from Fresno State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography. In 1993, Chavez became a naval officer and served an overseas deployment aboard the USS Abraham. In 2005, Chavez transferred to the Army National Guard and learned to fly the Blackhawk helicopter. In 2010, he was deployed to Iraq for a year and flew many Blackhawk

missions earning a Bronze Star Medal and a Combat Action Badge. After 20 years of service, Chavez continued to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves, reaching the rank of Major. He served as a volunteer pilot for the Tulare County Sherriff's Aero Squadron for 13 years, and in 2015, he was sworn in as the Sherriff One pilot. He is survived by wife and two children, his mother and two brothers.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Peace Officers Research Association of California

Opposition

None on file

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