Date of Hearing: June 13, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Laura Friedman, Chair
ACR 173 (Low) – As Introduced March 31, 2022

SUBJECT: Michael "Mike" Jason Katherman Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: Designates for the portion of State Route 85, five miles east of the Almaden Expressway Undercrossing, from post mile 1.136 to post mile 6.136 in the County of Santa Clara as the Michael "Mike" Jason Katherman Memorial Highway.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns the Department of Transportation (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 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: Michael "Mike" Jason Katherman of the San Jose Police Department was born in the City of San Jose, California, to parents Tom and Dianna Katherman on October 18, 1981.

After meeting his wife April in college in 2000, in 2004, Mike married the love of his life, April; April and Mike had two sons, Joshua and Jason.

Mike's main focus and love was always his wife and his sons; they were his world and he always did all that he could to make them happy and feel loved.

Mike and April filled their life with love for one another, family, camping, fishing, dirt bike riding and mostly, their faith in Jesus Christ.

It was during college that Mike felt the calling to follow through on his dream of becoming a police officer; and

Mike got a job as a loss-prevention officer while he applied to the San Jose Police Department, where in July 2005, he was sworn into the force where he eventually became a motorcycle officer as part of the department's traffic enforcement unit.

Mike was a director on the Police Chaplaincy Board and the Vice President of the Keith Kelley Club, an internal organization that provides support for officers and their families who endure hard times.

Mike did not hesitate when putting himself in harm's way during his career as a police officer; and

As a patrol officer, Mike stood out, earning the department's Outstanding Police Duty Award in 2009; and

On June 14, 2016, Mike was on patrol in the City of San Jose when he was struck by another vehicle. Witnesses attempted to assist Mike, but he succumbed to his injuries.

Mike honorably served the San Jose Police Department and the people of the City of San Jose for 11 years.

Mike was an extremely devoted man of God, husband, father, and friend who always desired to help his brothers and sisters of the San Jose Police Department.

Officer Michael J. Katherman will be dearly missed by all who had the pleasure and honor of knowing him

He is survived by his wife April, sons Joshua and Jason, parents Tom and Dianna, and brother, Nate Katherman.

According to the author, "Officer Michael Jason Katherman's contributions to the San Jose Police Department and community are well-known, and the memorial highway will be a great honor to him."

Committee Comments: It is the intent of the Assembly Transportation Committee to use the Memorial Highway Naming process to honor deceased Californians who have made significant public service contributions and also to reflect the diversity of our state. Currently, most named highways in California are for fallen male public safety officers, who made the ultimate sacrifice, and for whom we are indebted. However, these names do not fully represent the wide range of types of public service contributions, as well as the gender and racial diversity of California's communities. The Assembly Transportation Committee is committed to working with the Department of Transportation in the upcoming year to improve the naming process to ensure greater equity and to better represent the diversity of California.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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