

Date of Hearing: June 13, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Laura Friedman, Chair
ACR 183 (Cunningham) – As Introduced April 25, 2022

SUBJECT: Detective Luca Benedetti Memorial Overpass

SUMMARY: Designates the Buena Vista Avenue overpass at postmile marker 29.985 on State Route 101 in the County of San Luis Obispo as the Detective Luca Benedetti Memorial Overpass.

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: Luca Benedetti was born in San Francisco, California, in 1984 to Italian immigrant parents. Benedetti was raised in a close-knit Italian family where he learned the importance of hard work and integrity firsthand.

Benedetti later attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he studied engineering and met his future wife, Grace, bonding over their shared love of family, craft beer, and friends.

On February 23, 2013, Luca and Grace were married in Templeton, California. They welcomed their first child, Ellie on July 5, 2014, and a few years later, they welcomed their second daughter, Giovanna.

Though he studied Computer Engineering, Benedetti discovered his true passion was law enforcement. Benedetti graduated from the Allan Hancock Police Academy and began his career with the Atascadero Police Department in 2008, moving to the San Luis Obispo Police Department (SLOPD) in 2012, where he became a member of the San Luis Obispo Regional SWAT Team.

During his time with the SLOPD, Benedetti served in additional special assignments, including Traffic Accident Reconstruction, Information Technology, and Field Training Officer.

Benedetti received the Mothers Against Drunk Driving award in four consecutive years for leading the department in successful DUI arrests, and even had the privilege of delivering a baby in the department parking lot.

Detective Luca Benedetti was tragically killed in the line of duty on May 10, 2021, while serving a search warrant as a member of the SWAT Team.

Benedetti was best described by those closest to him as genuine, hardworking, kind, talented, and intelligent, and made everyone he met feel special. Benedetti was a mentor to younger officers and a leader in the department and on the SWAT Team, who insisted on being “first in the stack” on May 10, 2021, to serve the search warrant.

Detective Luca Benedetti is loved and missed by all who knew him, especially his wife and two children.

According to the author, “Luca was best described by those closest to him as genuine, hardworking, kind, talented, and intelligent. He made everyone he met feel special, and he loved being a dad. We will always honor and remember his service to our community and the sacrifice he and his family have made.”

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

SLO County Supervisors

Opposition

None on file.

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