

Date of Hearing: June 27, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

ACR 211 (Fong) – As Introduced June 21, 2022

SUBJECT: Corporal Luis Carlos Ruan Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: Will designate a portion of State Route 119, between Airport Road and Cedar Street, in the County of Kern as the Corporal Luis Carlos Ruan 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: Luis Carlos Ruan was born on January 26, 1997, in Long Beach, California to his parents, Juana Rodela and Sotero Ruan, and was a brother to two older sisters, Miriam and Nayeli Ruan. Luis moved to Taft, California when he was 8 years of age where he attended Jefferson Elementary, Roosevelt School, and Lincoln Junior High, and graduated from Taft Union High in 2015.

Luis loved to play with his friends in the neighborhood, making them laugh and being friendly with everyone. He loved soccer and started playing in the American Youth Soccer Organization at 9 years of age. Luis starting off as goalie and went on to play soccer for his junior high and high schools.

Luis volunteered to serve his country, enlisting in the United States Army in the summer of 2016, which he hoped would help him achieve his goal of going to school and joining the California Highway Patrol. Luis left for the United States Army in August 2016, and was sent to boot camp stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia. After graduating from boot camp in 2016, Luis was stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas. Luis worked for B Company, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. He lived in El Paso, Texas while he was stationed at Fort Bliss for three years where he met friends and lived a nice life.

Luis was in a military training accident on January 22, 2019, in which two other young men passed away, leaving him with a traumatic brain injury. He was sent to different hospitals while he and his family started their journey to his recovery.

Luis was returned to El Paso, Texas where he passed away on April 20, 2020.

Luis is survived by his parents, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

According to the author, “Corporal Luis Carlos Ruan will forever be remembered for his dedication and service to our country and his hometown of Taft. He left us far too early, and

commemorating State Route 119 through his hometown will be a warm welcome to family, friends, and all Californians. We are forever grateful for his service.”

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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