

Date of Hearing: May 4, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SCR 68 (Archuleta) – As Amended January 15, 2020

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** United States Army Sergeant Thomas R. MacPherson Memorial Interchange

**SUMMARY:** Designates a portion of Interstate 605 in Orange County as the “United States Army Sergeant Thomas R. MacPherson Memorial Interchange.” Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Recounts the life of Thomas R. MacPherson.
- 2) Designates the interchange at Interstate 605 and Katella Avenue in Orange County as the “United States Army Sergeant Thomas R. MacPherson Memorial Interchange.”
- 3) Requests that the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the costs of erecting the appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the special designation, and upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the costs, to erect the 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:**

Thomas R. MacPherson was born on July 20, 1986 in Long Beach, California and later graduated from Los Alamitos High School. He enlisted in the United States Army in May 2007 and completed one Station Unit Training at Fort Benning in Georgia as an infantryman. He was assigned to the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and, after graduation, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment in December 2007. After three years he became a fire team leader. During the course of his service, Sergeant MacPherson was awarded with the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman’s Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the United States Army Expert Rifle Marksmanship Qualification Badge. He has also been awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three Campaign Stars, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal.

Sergeant MacPherson gave his life for his country on his fourth deployment to Afghanistan when, at 26 years of age, he was killed by enemy forces during a firefight while conducting combat operations in the Andar District of Ghazani Province. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Purple Heart. Sergeant MacPherson

is survived by his wife, Claudia MacPherson, and their son, Brayden, and his parents, Troy and Diona MacPherson.

According to the author, “As a Ranger, Sgt. Thomas R. MacPherson selflessly lived his life for others and distinguished himself as a member of the Army’s premier direct action raid force and fought valiantly as he served his fellow Rangers and his country.”

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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