

Date of Hearing: June 27, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Laura Friedman, Chair  
SCR 75 (Grove) – As Introduced February 22, 2022

**SENATE VOTE:** 35-0

**SUBJECT:** Kern County Sheriff's Office Deputy Phillip Campas Memorial Interchange

**SUMMARY:** This will designate the interchange at State Route 65 (post mile R0.000) and State Route 99 (post mile R29.878) in the County of Kern as the Kern County Sheriff's Office Deputy Phillip Campas Memorial Interchange.

**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:** Kern County Sheriff's Office Deputy Phillip Campas was born in the City of Bakersfield to his loving parents, Jesse and Christine Campas, and grew up there with his younger sister, Adrianna. Campas attended East Bakersfield High School where he was the starting quarterback and, after graduating high school, Campas joined the United States Marine Corps.

Campas was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 as a machine gunner and in 2010, he graduated from a Marine Corps drill instructor school and served in that capacity for the next three years. Campas was dedicated to the Marine Corps, and during his service, Campas was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon, and numerous other medals reflecting honorably on his military career.

On March 14, 2011, Campas married the love of his life, Christina Nicole Vargas, immediately assumed his role as a father figure to Christina's son, Eli, and shortly thereafter, Campas and Vargas welcomed two beautiful girls to their family, Camila Rose (2012) and Analissa Mae (2015).

In 2015, Campas was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, moved his family back to the City of Bakersfield, and, shortly thereafter, graduated from the Kern County Sheriff's Office's Kern Regional Training Center Academy for peace officers, where he was the class leader and received the honor of top overall recruit. In February 2016, Campas was hired by the Kern County Sheriff's Office and started his career as a deputy sheriff.

Campas had numerous roles with the Kern County Sheriff's Office, including a patrol deputy, special weapons and tactics team (SWAT) operator, assistant rangemaster, honor guard member, physical training (PT) instructor, and recruit training officer (RTO). In addition to his duties at the Kern County Sheriff's Office, Campas volunteered his time as an instructor and mentor to the

teens involved in the Devil Pups organization, where he made a lasting impact challenging, educating, and helping young boys and girls learn self-confidence and responsibility. Campas served his Kern County community faithfully for five years until the end of his watch on Sunday, July 25, 2021.

On that afternoon, at approximately 1:00 p.m., deputies from the Kern County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 dispatch reporting that an armed man, the subject of a restraining order, was at a home near the intersection of 1st Street and Poplar Avenue in the City of Wasco, and that screaming and gunfire could be heard in the background of the 911 call. Responding deputies encountered a woman fleeing the home who stated that at least two people inside the home had been shot, and the suspect then fired at deputies and barricaded himself in the home. The Kern County Sheriff's Office's deployed its SWAT team and a standoff ensued. At approximately 3:00 p.m., the suspect opened fire on members of the SWAT team as they approached the home, striking Campas and another deputy, and both deputies were transported to a local hospital where, tragically, Campas succumbed to his wounds.

Campas, who had a true love for riding his horse, would saddle up his horse and go for a ride whenever he wanted to decompress, and he also loved going on his annual hunting trip with his father, Jesse. Anyone who spent more than two minutes with Campas instantly liked him. Campas is a true hero and his legacy will never be forgotten.

Campas, a devoted father and husband who always smiled as he spoke of his wife and children, is survived by his wife, Christina, and three young children: Analissa Mae (6); Camila Rose (9); and Eli (13).

*According to the author*, "Kern County Sheriff's Office Deputy Phillip Campas was killed on July 25, 2021 while responding to a call in City of Wasco. Over the following months since his death, Phillip Campas' story and legacy has shined bright in the community, bringing together friends, family and colleagues to honor his memory and remember him for the dutiful man he was.

SCR 75 honors the life, legacy and service of Deputy Phillip Campas by renaming the highway interchange located at State Route 65 and State Route 99 in Kern County as the Kern County Sheriff's Office Deputy Phillip Campas Memorial Interchange."

*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**

Bakersfield Police Department  
County of Kern  
Kern County 999 Foundation

**Opposition**

None on file.

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