

Date of Hearing: June 27, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

SCR 98 (McGuire) – As Introduced April 7, 2022

SENATE VOTE: 35-0

SUBJECT: Fortuna Police Officer Raymond Quincy Mills Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: This will designate the portion of State Highway Route 101 from Kenmar Road at postmile 59.503 to Palmer Blvd at postmile 62.229 in the City of Fortuna as the Fortuna Police Officer Raymond Quincy Mills 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: Fortuna Police Officer Raymond Quincy Mills was born on July 8, 1934. Officer Mills was a veteran who served in the Korean War before joining the Fortuna Police Department as an auxiliary officer in December of 1964, when a flood known as the thousand year flood struck Northern California.

Officer Mills attended the Concord Police Academy and became a regular full-time member of the Fortuna Police Department on July 1, 1965. In the early morning of Sunday, March 12, 1967, Officer Mills, 32, was tragically killed in the line of duty when he was fatally struck by a motorist while providing backup during a traffic stop on northbound Highway 101.

Officer Mills is remembered by his friends and neighbors as a fun-loving, energetic, intelligent, generous, friendly, and down-to-earth person who was always willing to put aside his own concerns to help his friends. At the time of his passing, Officer Mills was survived by his wife, Virginia Mays, his two sons, Jonathan Ray Mills and Donald Franklin Mills, and many beloved family members and friends.

Despite the years that have passed since his passing, Officer Mills continues to be remembered by all who knew him, and will be remembered by the generations to come for his professionalism, hard work, and dedication to his community.

In Rohner Park in the City of Fortuna stands a wooden memorial plaque donated by the Fortuna Policewomen's Auxiliary in memory of Officer Mills. Another memorial stone outside the Fortuna Police station and Fortuna City Hall bears the inscription, "In memory of Officer Ray Q. Mills who gave his life in the line of duty March 12, 1967."

According to the author, "This resolution acknowledges and commemorates Fortuna Police Officer Raymond Quincy Mills for his service."

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

City of Fortuna
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jessica Sam / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093