

Date of Hearing: June 13, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

ACR 203 (Stone) – As Introduced June 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Army Specialist Roger Lee Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 6, from post mile 2.260 to post mile 3.370 in the County of Monterey as the Army Specialist Roger Lee 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: United States Army Specialist Roger Lee was born and raised in Monterey, California. After he graduated from Monterey High School he attended an auto mechanic trade school in Arizona. There he met his future wife, Elvina, who attended the same school. The couple had one child, a daughter named Jazmyne.

Roger had settled into a happy life on California's Central Coast with his family and a good job working as an auto mechanic. Lee's older brother, Linstun, said that Lee "wanted to serve his nation. He had wanted to do it since he was 10 years old".

Lee was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, based in Hohenfels, Germany, and deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lee was killed in action on July 6, 2010, along with two others in an attack on their vehicle by insurgents with an improvised explosive device in Qalat, Afghanistan.

Lee's childhood friend, Joe Solis, remarked that Lee "had a passion for everything. Everything he did, he put his heart and soul into it. He would get everything done for others before he would take care of himself". Among family and friends, Lee is remembered as a fearless adventurer who loved hot rods, his country, and his family.

He is survived by his wife, Elvina, and daughter, Jazmyne.

According to the author, "Due to his deep commitment to the community, and giving the ultimate sacrifice for his country we would like to continue to be reminded of Army Specialist Roger Lee."

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 of file.

Opposition

None of file.

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