

Date of Hearing: June 13, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

ACR 204 (Stone) – As Introduced June 8, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Sergeant 1st Class Sean K. Mitchell Memorial Highway

**SUMMARY:** This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 1, from postmarker R75.5 to postmarker R76.5 in the County of Monterey as the Sergeant 1st Class Sean K. Mitchell 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:** Born on April 25, 1972, Sergeant 1st Class Mitchell was raised in the City of Monterey, where he received an Associates of Arts in 2002 in both Russian and Serbo-Croatian from the Defense Language Institute (DLI), Foreign Language Center, Monterey.

Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell entered the service in 1997 and received his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; he then attended the DLI Basic Russian Course at the Presidio of the City of Monterey, and completed his Advanced Individual Training at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas, in 1999 and was assigned Bravo Company, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, Wiesbaden, Germany. After returning to DLI and completing the Basic Serbo-Croatian Course, Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell volunteered for airborne duty in 2002 and follow on assignment to the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), where he deployed to various locations in Africa and the Balkans, and served multiple combat tours in Afghanistan

Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell's military education also includes the Warrior Leader Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Course, Basic Airborne Course, and the Patrol Medic and Vehicle Reconnaissance Courses. Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal with 3 knots, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 2, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal with bronze star device, and the Malian Cross of Valor..

Sgt. 1st Class Sean K. Mitchell died July 7, 2007, from an injury sustained during a sandstorm while supporting operations for the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership in Kidal, Mali. Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell was the team leader for Special Operations Team Alpha 013, Military Intelligence Detachment, Headquarters Support Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Stuttgart, Germany; and Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell is survived by his wife, Sonja,

and their son, Cameron, both of Stuttgart, Germany, his mother, Joan Mitchell of the City of Monterey, and his father, Steven Mitchell.

*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 Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sean K. Mitchell.”

*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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