

Date of Hearing: July 5, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

SCR 14 (Hurtado) – As Amended March 9, 2021

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Fire Captain Ramon Figueroa and Firefighter Patrick Jones Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: Designates the portion of California State Highway Route 65 in the County of Tulare, between postmile 16.130 and postmile 20.880, as the Fire Captain Ramon Figueroa and Firefighter Patrick Jones 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: Fire Captain Figueroa and Firefighter Jones were killed battling the City of Porterville Library Fire on February 18, 2020. Over 50 firefighters were needed to combat the blaze.

First to arrive to the scene, Figueroa and Jones conducted a primary search to ensure all civilians had exited the building. Unfortunately, the two never made it out themselves, succumbing to fatal injuries sustained during their search. Their valiant sacrifices protected the lives of other potential victims of the fire.

Ramon “Ray” Figueroa, Captain for the Porterville City Fire Department, was born January 3, 1985, and received his last alarm on February 18, 2020, at the young age of 35.

Ray Figueroa was born and raised in Delano, where he graduated from Delano High School in 2003, and later attended Porterville College, at which he completed the Fire Academy and graduated in 2006. Ray Figueroa began his firefighting career by volunteering with the Lindsay Fire Department in 2005 until he was hired by the Porterville City Fire Department as a Firefighter in 2007.

After many years of hard work and training, Firefighter Ray Figueroa was promoted to the rank of Fire Engineer in 2016, and was promoted to Fire Captain from Lieutenant and assigned to Station 71 in 2018. Fire Captain Ray Figueroa was part of the arson investigation unit and was committed to providing prompt, quality service to the Porterville Community.

Fire Captain Ray Figueroa was known for the love of his job and mentoring his crew, and it was common to hear him say, “My men, the mission, then me”. Ray was a devoted and loving father to his two children, and he enjoyed many outdoor adventures, offering his handyman skills to others, spending time with his family, and creating many lifelong friendships. Ray Figueroa was a lifelong learner and strived to leave a legacy of hard work and determination.

Patrick Jones, firefighter for the Porterville City Fire Department, was born on March 16, 1994, and received his last alarm on February 18, 2020, at the young age of 25. Patrick was raised in Visalia, California, where he attended Grace Christian Elementary and La Joya Middle School, before graduating from El Diamante High School. Patrick later attended Porterville College, at which he completed the Fire Academy and worked closer to his dream of becoming a full-time firefighter.

Patrick Jones began his firefighting career in 2014 as a Reserve Firefighter for the City of Porterville, and was hired as a full-time firefighter in 2017. He was relentless when it came to firefighting, and he attended numerous trainings and received several certifications following his acceptance of a position with the Porterville City Fire Department.

Firefighter Patrick Jones wanted to be the best he possibly could be to support his brothers—he never wanted to let them down. In addition to being a dedicated firefighter, Patrick Jones was a loving son, a protective little brother, a doting fiancé, and a loyal friend. Patrick was known for his infectious positive attitude, work ethic, and dedication to serving the community.

According to the author, “SCR 14 honors two fallen heroes of the Porterville community, Fire Captain Ramon “Ray” Figueroa and Firefighter Patrick Jones, for their extraordinary bravery and dedication to the Porterville community by designating a section of State Route 65 in the city of Porterville as the “Fire Captain Figueroa and Firefighter Jones Memorial Highway”. It is important we recognize these men as the heroes they were and honor their memories with this resolution.”

In support, the California Professional Firefighters writes, “Both Captain Figueroa and Firefighter Jones embodied the spirit of service and selfless sacrifice that make exemplary firefighters, and leave behind loving families, friends and a fire service that mourns their losses. We are grateful for the opportunity to create this remembrance for the families of these brave firefighters and for these reasons, we urge your support of this important measure.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Professional Firefighters

Opposition

None on file.

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