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**ACR-17 Sergeant Ronald “Ron” Lee Helus Memorial Highway.** (2019-2020)

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**Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 17**

**CHAPTER 120**

Relative to the Sergeant Ronald “Ron” Lee Helus Memorial Highway.

[ Filed with Secretary of State July 23, 2019. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 17, Irwin. Sergeant Ronald “Ron” Lee Helus Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 101 in the County of Ventura as the Sergeant Ronald “Ron” Lee Helus Memorial Highway. The measure would request that the Department of Transportation determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, erect those signs.

Fiscal Committee: yes

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ronald “Ron” Lee Helus of the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department was born in Canoga Park, California, to Richard and Lois Helus on July 21, 1964, and is survived by his wife Karen Archie and his son Jordan; and

WHEREAS, Ron was raised in Canoga Park, California, where he attended Canoga Park High School from 1979 through 1982; he studied at Union Institute & University, where he met his wife in anatomy class and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice Management; and

WHEREAS, Ron began his career with the County of Ventura upon entering the sheriff’s academy in 1989 to pursue a career that provided adventure and an opportunity to help people in his community, and on September 24, 1989, Ron was hired as a deputy sheriff trainee and began the rigorous five-month training program at the Sheriff’s Regional Training Center; after fracturing his tibia, Ron recovered from his injury and was recycled into the next academy class; and

WHEREAS, Ron was a member of the Class of 1990, that began with 24 sheriff’s recruits and graduated 10; through Ron’s discipline, dedication, and work ethic, he was one of the successful few who made it all the way from the initial application process to graduation; and

WHEREAS, Ron was sworn in as a deputy sheriff on October 28, 1990, and worked as a custody deputy at both the pretrial detention facility and the East Valley Jail; after working in the Detention Services Division until October 1993, he was transferred to patrol duty at the East Valley Station and worked as a property crimes detective at the Moorpark Police Station as a deputy; and

WHEREAS, On July 27, 1997, Ron was promoted to senior deputy and worked as a senior deputy at a local correctional facility before serving as a patrol senior deputy at the East Valley Station, where Ron was selected and assigned to the narcotics unit for seven years beginning in December 2000; and

WHEREAS, On August 12, 2007, Ron was promoted to sergeant and began working as a custody sergeant at the pretrial detention facility; in April 2010 he began working as a patrol sergeant at the East Valley Station and proudly served the residents of the area; and

WHEREAS, Ron remained at the East Valley Station until the time of his death where he mentored, coached, and had a huge influence on hundreds of patrol deputies; and

WHEREAS, Ron graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute in September 2015, while also attending the University of Oklahoma where he earned a master's degree in administrative leadership in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Ron was a member of Ventura County's prestigious SWAT team for eight years; additionally, he was a member of the Firearms Cadre and a Range Master for 12 years and he also worked as a concealed carry weapons (CCW) training instructor and self-defense instructor at Black Hawk Karate; and

WHEREAS, Ron loved the outdoors and enjoyed sharing this passion with his family by regularly going on trips to Mammoth to fish and camp; and

WHEREAS, On November 7, 2018, Sergeant Ron Helus was shot after responding to an active shooter at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks and passed away on November 8; Ron was approximately one year from retiring from the Ventura County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ron Helus heard gunfire coming from inside the bar, which was occupied by nearly 200 college students, and he and a California Highway Patrol officer made the courageous decision to enter the bar and immediately confront the shooter to protect as many civilians as possible; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ron Helus will be truly missed by all who had the pleasure and honor of knowing him; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the 3.424-mile portion of State Highway Route 101 between Hampshire Road at post mile 1.622 and Lynn Road at post mile 5.046 in the County of Ventura as the Sergeant Ronald "Ron" Lee Helus Memorial Highway to honor and commemorate Sergeant Helus' service to his community and his family; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.