

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION FOR
RENAMING U.S. HIGHWAY 101
LOREN SCRUGGS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

WHEREAS, Officer Loren Scruggs entered the California Highway Patrol (CHP) academy on January 8, 1962, and upon graduation in April was assigned to the Santa Maria Area office where he worked until his death April 20, 1971; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 1971 Officer Scruggs stopped two females for expired vehicle registration tags, at a location on East Betteravia Road in Santa Maria, nearby a 1965 Volkswagen sedan was also parked. While Officer Scruggs contacted the driver and passenger, the lone occupant of the VW, Mark D. Steward, age 23, walked across the road and interrupted to ask questions regarding camping facilities in the area. Officer Scruggs gave directions and went back to the two females; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steward stood at the front of the females car for a moment, then again approached and engaged Officer Scruggs with questions, and while doing so, Steward suddenly raised his right hand and shot Officer Scruggs at a distance of less than four feet. Stewart immediately fled east on Betteravia over US 101; and

WHEREAS, the female occupants attempted to render aid and called for help using the CHP vehicle's radio. CHP, Santa Barbara County Sheriffs and Santa Maria Police responded and began searching for the suspect; and

WHEREAS, longtime Santa Maria High School friend and fellow football team member, Officer Joe Centeno with Officer Frank Salazar were first on the scene to render aid to Officer Scruggs; who after three valiant days succumbed on April 23 without ever regaining consciousness; and

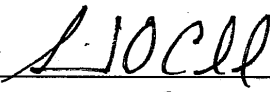
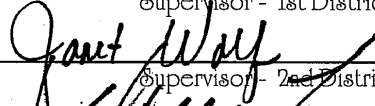

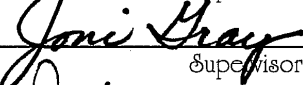
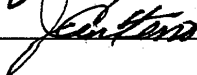
WHEREAS, 30 minutes after the shooting, CHP Officers Don Hathaway and Sergeant Jack Kauffman in search of the fleeing suspect, came upon the suspects vehicle at rest on its roof on a sharp curve on Dominion Road. The vehicle was unoccupied and they found Steward dying from a self inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Beside Steward was the .22 caliber pistol he had used to shoot Officer Scruggs. Inside the vehicle was a suicide note, ammunition, and illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, Officer Scruggs left behind a wife Carolyn, four children, Vickie, Donald, Kathy and Lauren.

NOW THEREBY BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors' of Santa Barbara County, State of California do hereby recognize and honor the renaming of the 101 corridor in Santa Maria California the Loren Scruggs Memorial Highway, this 21st day of April, 2009 by all members present.



ATTEST: 
Clerk of the Board


Supervisor - 1st District

Supervisor - 2nd District

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District