



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: July 20, 2013
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE ROUTE 12 IN LODI NAMED FOR FALLEN CALTRANS WORKER

Lodi – Today, Caltrans officials, off-duty Caltrans employees and family and friends of Donald Lichliter gathered at the Caltrans Maintenance Yard in Lodi to remember the fallen Caltrans employee and to name a portion of highway in his honor.

Per Assembly Concurrent Resolution 100 (Lowenthal), five miles of State Route 12 (SR-12) east of SR-99 was named as the "Donald Mark Lichliter Memorial Highway." On Thursday, July 23, 2009, Don, a tree maintenance leadworker and 27 year Caltrans veteran, was struck by a vehicle and killed while working along SR-99 in Lodi.

"Since 1924, 180 Caltrans employees have been killed in the line of duty," said Caltrans District 10 Director, Carrie Bowen. "At Caltrans we are committed to seeing that each of our employees and motorists go home to their families at the end of the day. So please, when you see flashing lights slow down and move over a lane if possible and remember to slow for the cone zone."

The signs, paid for and donated by the International Union of Operating Engineers, were installed using funds that were donated and raised by Caltrans employees and Don's family and friends. Off-duty Caltrans employees gave up their Saturday to host the event.

Bowen added, "It is our hope that we never have to suffer the tragedy of losing another member of our Caltrans family."

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Highway construction and maintenance work is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Caltrans reminds motorists to slow down while driving near a construction or maintenance site, and to remember the "Move Over" law, which was amended in 2009 to add Caltrans vehicles displaying flashing amber warning lights to the list of vehicles for which motorists must move over if safe to do so, or slow down. For the safety of workers and other motorists, please Slow for the Cone Zone.

