

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 14, 2003

*Photos available upon request*

Contact: Julio Martinez

Phone: 323-868-4897

DO: 03-34

---

**Assembly Member Chu Passes Resolution to Name Highway in Memory of El Monte Peace Officer, Donald Ralph Johnston**

WHO: Assembly Member Judy Chu, El Monte Police Officers Association, and City of El Monte

WHAT: Dedication of "El Monte Police Officer Donald Ralph Johnston Memorial Highway"

WHERE: El Monte City Council Chambers (11333 Valley Blvd, El Monte, 91731)

WHEN: Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am

El Monte, CA – Assembly Member Judy Chu, along with the El Monte Police Officers Association, City of El Monte, will celebrate the passage of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 71, which designates a 4-mile segment of Interstate 10 as the "Donald Ralph Johnston Memorial Highway." Also present will be the family of Officer Johnston.

Donald Ralph Johnston served as a peace officer for the El Monte Police Department from 1985 to 2001. On January 9, 1990, Officer Johnston responded to a call regarding an individual trying to pass a bad check at a bank. As Officer Johnston walked up to the bank, the suspect approached him, armed with a gun. With little concern for his own safety, Officer Johnston pushed a bystander out of harm's way and was shot in the neck. Officer Johnston fell to ground, paralyzed, his law enforcement career was almost certainly over.

After spending a significant amount of time in hospitals and rehabilitation, Officer Johnston returned to work one year later in a wheelchair. He would eventually reach the ranks of detective and police helicopter observer. Mr. Johnston passed away soon after his retirement on November 22, 2002, in his Canyon Lake home, leaving behind his wife Ruth, son Eric, and mother Rosalyn.