

SENATE, No. 2091

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRIS A. BROWN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Testa

SYNOPSIS

Designates mile 22 of State Highway Route 9 in Dennis Township as “Charles Richard Ingram III and the Fallen Veterans of Suicide Memorial Mile.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** designating mile 22 of State Highway Route 9 in the
2 Township of Dennis as the “Charles Richard Ingram III and the
3 Fallen Veterans of Suicide Memorial Mile.”

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Charles Richard “Rich” Ingram III was a veteran of the
9 United States Navy; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Ingram served aboard the U.S.S. Blue Back submarine
11 from 1985 to 1992, until he transferred to the U.S. Naval Reserve;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, After leaving the Navy, Mr. Ingram worked as an electrical
14 and mechanical equipment repairman and raised a family in the
15 Township of Egg Harbor; and

16 **WHEREAS**, On March 16, 2016, Mr. Ingram tragically took his life
17 after months of delays and canceled medical appointments while
18 awaiting adequate mental health care from the United States
19 Veterans Administration (VA); and

20 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Ingram represents an increasing number of veterans
21 who are tragically taking their own lives due to inadequate Post-
22 Traumatic Stress Disorder diagnoses or lack of access to mental
23 health care; and

24 **WHEREAS**, According to the VA, in 2017, on average 22 veterans
25 committed suicide every day; and

26 **WHEREAS**, To honor the 22 fallen veterans who could be saved with
27 proper access to adequate mental health care, it is fitting and proper
28 that Charles Richard Ingram III and all of the fallen veterans of
29 suicide be remembered by designating mile 22 of State Highway
30 Route 9 in the Township of Dennis as the “Charles Richard Ingram
31 III and the Fallen Veterans of Suicide Memorial Mile”; now,
32 therefore,

33
34 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
35 *of New Jersey:*

36
37 1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the
38 portion of State Highway Route 9, at milepost 22, in the Township
39 of Dennis as the “Charles Richard Ingram III and the Fallen
40 Veterans of Suicide Memorial Mile” and erect appropriate signs
41 bearing this designation and dedication.

42
43 2. State or other public funds shall not be used for producing,
44 purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established
45 pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of
46 Transportation is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other
47 financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding
48 or reimbursing the Department of Transportation for the costs

1 associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining
2 signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of
3 this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with private
4 sources, including, but not limited to, non-governmental non-profit,
5 educational, or charitable entities or institutions. Work shall not
6 proceed and funding shall not be accepted by the Department of
7 Transportation until an agreement has been reached with a
8 responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing,
9 purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.

10
11 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

12
13
14 STATEMENT

15
16 This bill designates mile 22 of State Highway Route 9, in the
17 Township of Dennis, as the “Charles Richard Ingram III and the
18 Fallen Veterans of Suicide Memorial Mile” to honor the memory of
19 Charles Richard Ingram III, a U.S. Navy veteran who tragically
20 committed suicide, and the 22 veterans on average who commit
21 suicide each day.

22 Consistent with Department of Transportation policy and other
23 road designations, the bill provides that State or other public funds
24 are not to be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs
25 bearing the designation for the “Charles Richard Ingram III and the
26 Fallen Veterans of Suicide Memorial Mile.” The Commissioner of
27 Transportation is authorized to receive financial assistance from
28 private sources for the costs associated with producing, purchasing,
29 erecting, and maintaining signs bearing the designation.