



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

California Highway Patrol officer Albert Hoover died from injuries sustained while riding his CHP motorcycle in 1934.

# CHP office marks 77th anniversary of fallen officer's death

Motorcycle officer died  
on 'the Santa Cruz-Watsonville  
Highway' in 1934

Bio-H

By CATHY KELLY

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APTOS — California Highway Patrol officers will wear mourning ribbons on their badges and fly the flag at half-staff at the Freedom Boulevard office today.

CHP officers and employees are commemorating the 77th anniversary of the death of Albert Donald Hoover, who died in a crash on Aug. 31, 1934, CHP officer Sarah Jackson said.

Hoover was 31 and riding home on his department-issue motorcycle when a car turned in front of him on the Santa Cruz-Watsonville Highway near Slaughterhouse Curve, she said — what is now Soquel Drive near Commercial Way. At the time, Highway 1 did not exist there.

Hoover joined the agency at its 1929 formation, and is one of three CHP officers who have died in the line of duty in the county. The agency has 220 fallen officers statewide, Jackson said.

Hoover had a son, Richard, who was 6 when his father died. The son, Richard Hoover, is 83 and lives in Aptos.

In a phone interview Tuesday, Richard

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Hoover said he plans to visit his father's grave at Santa Cruz Memorial today and place a small flag there.

Richard Hoover, a World War II Navy veteran, was a student at Soquel Grammar School at the time, he said.

His parents had split up, he said, but his dad would take him on row boat rides on the San Lorenzo River and to DeLaveaga Park when he was off duty. And he would sometimes stop by on his motorcycle, during breaks, his son said.

"I remember the news, when they told me he had died in a crash," Hoover said. "And I remember the big, beautiful, wonderful funeral that they gave him. There were several officers there in uniforms with their motorcycles. They said there was a procession out at the grave site that was three-quarters of a mile long, the most ever done at the time."

Hoover said the memorial events by the CHP are "very touching," especially the effort now-retired CHP Capt. Christina Manriquez started a few years ago to take Hoover and his wife to Sacramento for an annual statewide service in May.

"You bet it helps," he said.

Richard Hoover is now hoping that an effort Manriquez started before she retired late last year — to have a memorial to his father placed along a section of county highway — will come to fruition.

Richard Hoover said he offered to help pay for it, but has not been taken up on that offer. Jackson said getting the memorial placed is a long process.

Albert Hoover was also survived by his second wife, Gladys. His first wife and Richard Hoover's mother, Mary Stoddard Burger, died in 2006, at age 97, Richard Hoover said.

The other CHP officers who died in the line of duty in the county are Lt. Michael Walker, who was struck on Highway 17 in 2005, and officer John Pedro, who died in a solo crash in South County in 2002.

In Santa Cruz County, they are mourned in May and on the anniversaries of their deaths, Jackson said.

They will not be forgotten, she said.