

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Assembly Member Horton
(Coauthor: Senator Ducheny)

January 30, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 17—Relative to the Mary Augustine Bridge.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 17, as introduced, Horton. Mary Augustine Bridge.

This measure would designate the horse bridge that crosses State Highway Route 125 and is located in Bonita, west of the Summit Park Campground in San Diego County, as the Mary Augustine Bridge. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Mary Augustine is a long-time resident of Bonita,
2 California, and an equestrian and trail advocate; and
3 WHEREAS, In 1969, Mary was a founding member of a new
4 horse club in Bonita called Equestrian Trails, Inc. (E.T.I.), a
5 national club with a southwestern base in Los Angeles whose
6 purpose was to build a network of trails throughout the country;
7 and
8 WHEREAS, The Bonita Club, E.T.I. Corral 89, concentrated
9 its efforts in Bonita and worked in concert with other corrals
10 throughout San Diego County; and

1 WHEREAS, From the early days of E.T.I. Corral 89, through
2 the subsequent reorganization and creation of Bonita Valley
3 Horsemen (BVH) in February 1975, through approximately 1989,
4 Mary worked tirelessly on various trails projects in Bonita and
5 San Diego County; and

6 WHEREAS, Under the guidance of Jim Miller, an attorney who
7 worked pro bono for Bonita Valley Horsemen, Mary's talent for
8 working with local and state politicians and agencies blossomed;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mary was instrumental in getting the first large
11 trail project in Bonita started and completed. It is the current trail
12 around the Chula Vista Golf Course used by, among others, riders,
13 bikers, and hikers; and

14 WHEREAS, During the critical years of the 1970s and 80s,
15 Mary became a force to be reckoned with. She worked with state
16 and local agencies and persuaded developers to give land easements
17 for dedicated trails, or to preserve existing trails, through Bonita
18 Downs, Bonita Woods Park, Bonita Ridge, and Ranchito
19 Robinwood; and

20 WHEREAS, These trails were to eventually feed into other trails
21 planned for Sweetwater Regional Park. At that point there were
22 an estimated 1,300 horses in Bonita, and San Diego County had
23 the largest per capita population of horses in the U.S.A.; and

24 WHEREAS, As time went on developers began to see the
25 wisdom of calling Mary for advice regarding trails through their
26 developments or rerouting existing trails. Bonita was a horse
27 community; and

28 WHEREAS, As interest and success in local and county trails
29 grew, horse camps at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park had come into
30 being and the Anza-Borrego horse camp was on the horizon. Mary
31 was one of the first volunteers on the Mounted Assistance Unit,
32 designed to aid park rangers on search and rescue missions, patrol
33 the areas of the park that the rangers could not get to easily, uphold
34 park rules, interpret the park regulations, and many other duties;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, One of the first countywide efforts to create trails
37 that networked was started by the San Diego County
38 Comprehensive Planning Organization. The plan included tri-use
39 trails for horseback riding, hiking, and biking. Its purpose was to
40 find solutions for the legal, insurance, and economic problems

1 regarding trails. Mary was the trail coordinator for the local E.T.I.
2 Corral 89. Mary and Shirley Wise, president of local E.T.I. Corral
3 89, and Jim Miller had meetings with local agencies and interested
4 groups regarding the trails plan. Mary was also on the executive
5 board for the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association. The riding
6 and hiking trails plan was approved by the county supervisors in
7 1976; and

8 WHEREAS, In the late 1970s, Mary headed up the new
9 Sweetwater Summit Park east towards Jamul and the trail was
10 built with the aid of a Comprehensive Employment and Training
11 Act grant in the amount of \$40,000; and

12 WHEREAS, This trail was dedicated July 17, 1980, and on that
13 day Mary led the first trail ride on the new trail, which is still used
14 today regularly by riders, bikers, and hikers; and

15 WHEREAS, A long-time member and vice president of San
16 Diego County Trails Council and Bonita Valley Horsemen, Mary
17 continued to lead the fight for trails with the help of Jim Miller,
18 BVH members, and past president Shirley Wise into the late 1980s;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Mary and her husband Ken moved to the dream
21 home they built in 1990 on the north side of Cuyamaca Lake,
22 overlooking the lake, where they still reside; and

23 WHEREAS, It was not smooth sailing, or riding, for the trails
24 system we now enjoy in Bonita and San Diego County. It took the
25 tremendous efforts, time, dollars, and energy of Mary Augustine
26 and her supporters to achieve these wonderful results; and

27 WHEREAS, Bonita Valley Horsemen are very thankful for
28 Mary's years of dedication, hard work, and experience; and

29 WHEREAS, Mary's ultimate goal, which she fulfilled, was to
30 ride from the Pacific Ocean to Cuyamaca State Park and beyond
31 to the desert regions of Cleveland National Park; now, therefore,
32 be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring,* That Legislature hereby recognizes the
35 contributions of Mary Augustine to the people of California and
36 designates the horse bridge that crosses State Highway Route 125
37 and is located in Bonita, west of the Summit Park Campground in
38 San Diego County, as the Mary Augustine Bridge; and be it further

39 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested
40 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the

1 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this
2 special designation, and upon receiving donations from nonstate
3 sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it
4 further
5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
6 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
7 author for appropriate distribution.

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