

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 17

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 59

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

[Filed with Secretary of State June 22, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 17, Horton. Mary Augustine Bridge.

This measure would encourage San Diego County to post appropriate markers on county property designating 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.

WHEREAS, Mary Augustine is a long-time resident of Bonita, California, and an equestrian and trail advocate; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Mary was a founding member of a new horse club in Bonita called Equestrian Trails, Inc. (E.T.I.), a national club with a southwestern base in Los Angeles whose purpose was to build a network of trails throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, The Bonita Club, E.T.I. Corral 89, concentrated its efforts in Bonita and worked in concert with other corrals throughout San Diego County; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, One of the first countywide efforts to create trails that networked was started by the San Diego County Comprehensive Planning Organization. The plan included tri-use trails for horseback riding, hiking, and biking. Its purpose was to find solutions for the legal, insurance, and economic problems regarding trails. Mary was the trail coordinator for the local E.T.I. Corral 89. Mary and Shirley Wise, president of local E.T.I. Corral 89, and Jim Miller had meetings with local agencies and interested groups regarding the trails plan. Mary was also on the executive board for the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association. The riding and hiking trails plan was approved by the county supervisors in 1976; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the contributions of Mary Augustine to the people of California and encourages San Diego County to post appropriate markers on county property designating 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; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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