

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 116

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 74

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 116—Relative to Adolfo Camarillo Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 3, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 116, Strickland. Adolfo Camarillo Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate the portion of State Highway Route 101 from the top of the Conejo Grade to Lewis Road in the City of Camarillo as the Adolfo Camarillo Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo was born in 1864 in what would become Ventura County and, in 1880, at 16 years of age, took over operations of the 10,000 acre Rancho Calleguas upon the death of his father Juan; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo married Isabella Menchaca in 1888 and they moved into an adobe on the ranch and subsequently raised five children; and

WHEREAS, In 1890, Adolfo Camarillo planted two rows of eucalyptus trees, with the help of two Chumash Indians, which arched over State Highway Route 101 for many years; and

WHEREAS, These trees were designated as Ventura County Historical Landmark Number 3 on August 5, 1968, and were identified as the Adolfo Camarillo Heritage Grove in the Negative Declaration for the widening of State Highway Route 101 through Camarillo in 1980; and

WHEREAS, In 1892, Adolfo Camarillo constructed the Queen Anne Victorian Camarillo Ranch House, which is visible to the north from Route 101 and was recommended for designation as a California Point of Historical Interest by the State Office of Historical Preservation on August 5, 2005, and was approved for that designation by the State Director of Parks and Recreation on September 29, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo graduated from the International Business College in Los Angeles in 1895 and was a pioneer in raising lima beans, which became the major crop in Ventura County during that time; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo served as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Ventura County from 1907 to 1915; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo was a member of the Pleasant Valley School District Board of Trustees for 56 years, serving as presiding officer for a total of 23 years; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo donated property for the Southern Pacific Railroad to be constructed through Camarillo in 1898 and this resulted in a station being built that became known as “Camarillo,” and the town site for Camarillo was laid out that same year; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo gave to the community by donating 50 acres of land for the first high school in Camarillo, which is named for him; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo granted land for the new Conejo Grade State Highway Route 101 project in 1937, enabling the highway to be constructed across the entire width of the original Rancho Calleguas from the Conejo Grade to the Union Pacific Railroad, formerly the Southern Pacific Railroad, tracks adjacent to downtown Camarillo; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo was a leader in a number of organizations in Camarillo and California, including the Ventura County Fair Board, the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Los Rancheros Visitadores, and the California Lima Bean Growers Association, and was a director of the California State Fair Board and of the Bank of A. Levy; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo bred and raised a stable of Morgan-Arabian horses, now famously known as the “Camarillo White Horses,” which represented the community at many events, including the Pasadena Rose Parades and the opening of the Oakland Bay Bridge in 1936, and were ridden by him at many Los Rancheros Visitadores trail rides, including one featuring former Governor Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, Adolfo Camarillo was known affectionately as “The Last Spanish Don” because he cherished and preserved the Spanish traditions of early California; and

WHEREAS, It is desired by the people of Camarillo that the Legislature of the State of California commemorate the many contributions of Adolfo Camarillo by designating a portion of State Highway Route 101 in his honor; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby commemorates the many contributions of Adolfo Camarillo and designates the portion of State Highway Route 101 from the top of the Conejo Grade to Lewis Road in the City of Camarillo as the Adolfo Camarillo Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author, the Department of Transportation, the City of Camarillo, and the Camarillo Ranch Foundation.