
Introduced by Senator Simitian

April 13, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30—Relative to the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 30, as introduced, Simitian. Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified segment of State Highway Route 82 in the City of Palo Alto as the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Elizabeth T. (Betty) Meltzer was best known in
2 Palo Alto for her environmental efforts, including being a key
3 organizer of the “Trees for El Camino Project” in Palo Alto, and
4 as a cofounder with Ellen Wyman of Palo Alto Tomorrow, an
5 organization that successfully promoted sensible growth in
6 downtown Palo Alto; and

7 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer was born on May 3, 1939, in San
8 Francisco to Anna Rose and Sam Taylor, and moved to Palo Alto
9 in 1948, where she graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1956;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer graduated from Smith College in
12 1960 and received her master’s degree in education from Stanford
13 University in 1961; and

1 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer married Bob Meltzer and resided in
2 New York City before later returning to Palo Alto with her family;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Beginning in the mid 1980's, Betty Meltzer began
5 her community organizing for a better Palo Alto with the
6 cofounding of Palo Alto Tomorrow; and

7 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer was also a graduate of the first class
8 in 1987 of the "Leadership Palo Alto" (later "Leadership
9 Midpeninsula") program designed to train both citizens and
10 government people on how to contribute to local civic betterment;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer was an active member in the Palo
13 Alto Garden Club and the Palo Alto Women's Club; and

14 WHEREAS, Education was one of Betty Meltzer's passions:
15 she taught in the Palo Alto Unified School District for five years,
16 trained blind people how to read, and for many years tutored
17 elementary school students who had reading disabilities; and

18 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer served on the board of the former
19 Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation (PCCF), now Acterra,
20 and was especially active in creating the Business Environmental
21 Network, which gave awards to environmentally outstanding
22 businesses; and

23 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer was cofounder with Susan Rosenberg
24 of the Trees for El Camino Project which aided the City of Palo
25 Alto in obtaining the funding for hundreds of new trees along the
26 4.3 miles of El Camino Real in Palo Alto; and

27 WHEREAS, Betty Meltzer, who was known for her tenacious
28 attitude and steadfast commitment to her work for the City of Palo
29 Alto, was able to work with the Department of Transportation to
30 relax the department's regulations on the planting of trees in road
31 medians in order to realize her dream of seeing Palo Alto's portion
32 of El Camino Real become a welcoming, tree-lined boulevard;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, The distinguished life of Betty Meltzer ended on
35 September 29, 2008; and

36 WHEREAS, It is therefore appropriate to designate a portion
37 of State Highway Route 82 (El Camino Real) as the Betty Meltzer
38 Memorial Highway, now therefore, be it,

39 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
40 *thereof concurring, That in recognition of the numerous*

1 achievements and contributions of Elizabeth T. (Betty) Meltzer,
2 the Legislature hereby designates the segment of State Highway
3 Route 82 between Page Mill Road and San Francisquito Creek in
4 the City of Palo Alto as the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway;
5 and be it further

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

12 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
13 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
14 author for appropriate distribution.