

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 41

Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

March 21, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 41—Relative to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 41, as introduced, Chávez. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge.

This measure would designate the Mission Avenue bridge over Interstate 5 in the City of Oceanside as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge to honor the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 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.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 -
2 April 4, 1968) was an American clergyman, doctor of theology,
3 activist, and leader in the African American Civil Rights
4 Movement, who is best known for his role in the advancement of
5 civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience; and
6 WHEREAS, Dr. King, who has become a national icon, became
7 a Baptist minister and a civil rights activist early in his career; and
8 WHEREAS, Dr. King led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott
9 and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
10 (SCLC) in 1957, serving as its first president. With the SCLC, Dr.
11 King led an unsuccessful struggle against segregation in Albany,

1 Georgia in 1962, and organized nonviolent protests in Birmingham,
2 Alabama that attracted national attention following television news
3 coverage of the brutal police response; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. King also helped to organize the 1963 March
5 on Washington, D.C., where he delivered his “I Have a Dream”
6 speech. There, he established his reputation as one of the greatest
7 orators in American history and said to the crowd: “With this faith
8 we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of
9 hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling
10 discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood”;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, On October 14, 1964, Dr. King received the Nobel
13 Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolence.
14 In 1965, he and the SCLC helped to organize the Selma to
15 Montgomery marches, and the following year, he took the
16 movement north to Chicago. In the final years of his life, Dr. King
17 expanded his focus to include poverty and the Vietnam War; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in
19 Memphis, Tennessee and was posthumously awarded the
20 Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a United States
22 federal holiday in 1986 and a memorial statue on the National Mall
23 in Washington, D.C. was opened to the public in 2011; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the Mission
27 Avenue bridge (Bridge No. 57-0266) over Interstate 5 in the City
28 of Oceanside as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge to honor
29 the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and be
30 it further

31 *Resolved*, That when our children cross this bridge they can be
32 reminded of an American hero who preached love, understanding,
33 and peace for all; and be it further

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

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
3 author for appropriate distribution.

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