

Introduced by Senator Berryhill

April 16, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36—Relative to the Bill Whitehurst Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 36, as introduced, Berryhill. Bill Whitehurst Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 152 in the County of Madera as the Bill Whitehurst 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.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, William “Bill” S. Whitehurst was a prominent
2 Fresno businessman, civic leader, philanthropist, and devoted and
3 generous member of the community, actively involved in local
4 organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, the Knights of
5 Columbus, the Fresno Arts Center, and Veterans of Foreign Wars;
6 and
7 WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst was born on July 15, 1922, to Anna
8 Feusi and Joel Whitehurst in Sacramento, and that same year the
9 family moved to Los Banos to open a funeral home; and
10 WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst, his brother, Joel, and his sister,
11 Betty, graduated from Los Banos High School, where he lettered
12 in football, basketball, and baseball while maintaining straight As;
13 and

1 WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst received a football scholarship
2 from St. Mary's College of California in Moraga, which is
3 administered by the De LaSalle Christian Brothers; and

4 WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst cherished his time at St. Mary's
5 College and throughout his lifetime provided scholarships to the
6 students of St. Mary's and San Joaquin Memorial High School,
7 which is also administered by Christian Brothers; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1973, Bill Whitehurst received the Christian
9 Brothers' prestigious award of Signum Fidei for his outstanding
10 participation in the goals of higher education; and

11 WHEREAS, After assuming ownership of his family's
12 Whitehurst Chapel at 18 years of age, Bill Whitehurst served two
13 years overseas during World War II in the United States Army
14 and was honorably discharged; and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst has demonstrated a lifetime of
16 public service and a commitment to his community, beginning
17 with his election to the Los Banos City Council at 21 years of age;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst was selected county campaign
20 chairman for Governor Edmund G. Brown's bid for Governor in
21 1962, and as county campaign chairman for John F. Kennedy in
22 1960 and Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 in their bids for the
23 presidency; and

24 WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst was appointed to the State Highway
25 Commission in 1963 and served until 1970, where he spearheaded
26 a drive to transform State Highway Route 152, then a dangerous
27 two-lane highway known as "Blood Alley" due to numerous traffic
28 accidents, into a safer four-lane highway; and

29 WHEREAS, In 1970, Bill Whitehurst was given the Department
30 of Veterans Affairs Citation of Merit for his ongoing generosity
31 shown by his performing burials of disabled veterans who died at
32 a Veterans Affairs hospital at a cost not exceeding the Veterans
33 Administration's allowance; and

34 WHEREAS, In 1970, and through the year 2012, Bill Whitehurst
35 extended that courtesy to any veteran who died under difficult
36 financial circumstances; and

37 WHEREAS, From 1971 to 1972, Bill Whitehurst served two
38 terms as President of the American Cancer Society; and

39 WHEREAS, From 1973 to 1982, Bill Whitehurst served as a
40 member of the Saint Agnes Medical Center Board of Trustees and

1 helped drive the movement to relocate the medical center to its
2 current location in north Fresno. To do this, Bill Whitehurst helped
3 secure the donation of the 30-acre property and generously donated
4 his own money to the building fund; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1973, Bill Whitehurst developed the Safe-D
6 Program to help young teenagers improve their driving skills and
7 become more aware of the obligations and responsibilities of
8 driving a motor vehicle; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Bill Whitehurst remained
10 devoted to his church, and in 1989 received the prestigious
11 Benemerenti medal from Pope John Paul II, for outstanding service
12 to his church, his community, and to families in need; and

13 WHEREAS, On July 20, 2000, Bill Whitehurst and his wife,
14 Ann, conveyed to the Fresno County Office of Education the
15 property known as Scout Island, a parcel that was key in developing
16 the San Joaquin River Parkway and is now used as an outdoor
17 education center; and

18 WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst continued his commitment to the
19 community by serving on the St. John’s Cathedral Restoration
20 project, helping to raise the needed moneys necessary to keep the
21 historic cathedral, which is located in Fresno, a jewel for the entire
22 San Joaquin Valley; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
24 *thereof concurring,* That the portion of State Highway Route 152
25 between its intersection with State Highway 233 and its intersection
26 with State Highway 99 (Postmile 10.799 to Postmile 15.622) in
27 the County of Madera is hereby designated as the Bill Whitehurst
28 Memorial Highway; and be it further

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

35 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
37 for appropriate distribution.

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