

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 138

Introduced by Assembly Member Lackey
(Coauthor: Senator Runner)

February 16, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 138—Relative to the Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 138, as introduced, Lackey. Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Route 138 in the County of Los Angeles as the Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Lawrence “Larry” Chimbole was born in New
2 Haven, Connecticut, on May 22, 1919, and graduated from
3 Stamford High School in 1937. During World War II, Chimbole
4 served as a B-29 radio operator in the Army Air Corps on the
5 Pacific Island of Tinian. After World War II, he moved to
6 California and settled in the City of Glendale, before migrating
7 west to the San Fernando Valley, and moving to the community
8 of Palmdale in 1957; and
9 WHEREAS, When Larry arrived in the Palmdale area, the
10 population was approximately 7,100 people. There was no

1 incorporated City of Palmdale or City of Lancaster, no Antelope
2 Valley Freeway, no California Aqueduct, no Antelope Valley,
3 Crystallaire or Rancho Vista country clubs, no Antelope Valley
4 Mall, no Paraclete, Quartz Hill, Highland, or Littlerock high
5 schools, no AV Courthouse, no Antelope Valley Board of Trade,
6 no regional county library, no hospital, no Palmdale Amphitheater,
7 no DryTown Water Park, no Poncitlán Square, and no Palmdale
8 Auto Mall; and

9 WHEREAS, Larry became the owner of a hardware store in
10 Palmdale and almost immediately became involved in Palmdale's
11 civic affairs as president of the Palmdale Kiwanis Club, then
12 president of the Palmdale Chamber of Commerce in 1961; and

13 WHEREAS, Larry was instrumental in leading the City of
14 Palmdale into incorporation as one of the "50 Grand Men," who
15 each donated money to fund the process. After the city was
16 successfully incorporated in 1962, he was elected as the city's first
17 mayor. He helped bring the Lockheed assembly plant to the
18 Antelope Valley and was instrumental in the development of the
19 Antelope Valley and its freeway system; and

20 WHEREAS, Mayor Chimbole, running as a Democrat in a
21 highly Republican area, went on to serve two terms in the
22 California State Assembly from 1974 to 1978, inclusive, and was
23 the first Antelope Valley resident to ever be elected to the State
24 Legislature. He also served a total of 12 years on the Palmdale
25 City Council, where he represented the city as the president of the
26 California Contract Cities Association and as president of the Los
27 Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities. In
28 1974, Larry was responsible for arranging the National Guard
29 Armory to be located in the City of Palmdale instead of the City
30 of Lancaster; and

31 WHEREAS, After being defeated in the 1978 Assembly election,
32 Larry Chimbole continued to serve his community by serving as
33 a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, the Antelope
34 Valley Healthcare District Board of Directors and the Antelope
35 Valley Fair Board of Directors; and

36 WHEREAS, In 1996, the Desert Mailer had the front page
37 headline, "Chimbole just keeps on tickin'." In the article, when
38 asked how he would like to be remembered, Larry Chimbole
39 answered, "I would most like to be remembered that I was active

1 as hell around here in 1960. In 1996, I’m just about as active or
2 more so and I think that’s my legacy”; and

3 WHEREAS, Former Mayor Chimbole continued to be active
4 in his community. In 1999, he served as campaign chair of the
5 United Way Antelope Valley Region. In 2006, city officials
6 immortalized the “50 Grand Men” when they formally presented
7 a beautiful plaque that is currently on display at the Chimbole
8 Cultural Center; and

9 WHEREAS, On August 24, 2012, Larry Chimbole was a
10 featured guest at the City of Palmdale’s 50th anniversary
11 celebration held at Poncitlán Square that was attended by
12 thousands. In 2013, more than 100 friends and family members
13 gathered to celebrate his 94th birthday at the Chimbole Cultural
14 Center that bears his name. At 94, Larry Chimbole was still very
15 active in the community, where he attended many local community
16 events; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2014, a committee was formed to raise funds
18 to create a series of bronze statues called “Legendary Locals.” The
19 first statue in the series was to be of Larry Chimbole. The statue
20 was dedicated on October 8, 2015, across from the Palmdale City
21 Hall on a bench in Poncitlán Square. More than 200 people
22 witnessed the unveiling of the statue entitled “The First Mayor”
23 which depicts Chimbole seated on a bench with one arm resting
24 atop the back of the bench to encourage visitors to sit and visit
25 with a “local legend”; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the portion of
28 State Route 138 in the County of Los Angeles from the interchange
29 at State Route 14 to 47th Street East in the City of Palmdale as the
30 Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the sign posted to commemorate this highway
32 additionally state below “Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway:
33 First Mayor of Palmdale”; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
35 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
36 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
37 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
38 sources sufficient to cover 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 Director of Transportation and to the author
- 3 for appropriate distribution.