

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 29, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 138

Introduced by Assembly ~~Member Lackey~~ *Members Lackey and Wilk*

(Coauthor: Senator Runner)

February 16, 2016

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 138—Relative to the Larry Chimbole Memorial ~~Highway~~. *Highway and the Santa Clarita Veterans Parkway.*

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 138, as amended, Lackey. Larry Chimbole Memorial ~~Highway~~. *Highway and the Santa Clarita Veterans Parkway.*

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Route 138 in the County of Los Angeles as the Larry Chimbole Memorial ~~Highway~~. *Highway and a specified portion of highway from Interstate 5 to State Highway Route 14, commonly known as the Cross Valley Connector, as the Santa Clarita Veterans Parkway.* The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing ~~this special designation~~ *these special designations* 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

1 Stamford High School in 1937. During World War II, Chimbole  
2 served as a B-29 radio operator in the Army Air Corps on the  
3 Pacific Island of Tinian. After World War II, he moved to  
4 California and settled in the City of Glendale, before migrating  
5 west to the San Fernando Valley, and *then* moving to the  
6 community of Palmdale in 1957; and

7 WHEREAS, When Larry arrived in the Palmdale area, the  
8 population was approximately 7,100 people. There was no  
9 incorporated City of Palmdale or City of Lancaster, no Antelope  
10 Valley Freeway, no California Aqueduct, no Antelope Valley,  
11 Crystallaire or Rancho Vista country clubs, no ~~Antelope Valley~~  
12 ~~Mall, mall, no Paraclete, Quartz Hill, Highland, or Littlerock~~ high  
13 schools, no ~~AV Courthouse, courthouse, no Antelope Valley Board~~  
14 of Trade, no ~~regional~~ county library, no hospital, no Palmdale  
15 Amphitheater, no DryTown Water Park, no Poncitlán Square, and  
16 no Palmdale Auto Mall; and

17 WHEREAS, Larry became the owner of a hardware store in  
18 Palmdale and almost immediately became involved in Palmdale's  
19 civic affairs as president of the Palmdale Kiwanis Club, *and* then  
20 *as* president of the Palmdale Chamber of Commerce in 1961; and

21 WHEREAS, Larry was instrumental in leading the City of  
22 Palmdale into incorporation as one of the "50 Grand Men," who  
23 each donated money to fund the process. After the city was  
24 successfully incorporated in 1962, he was elected as the city's first  
25 mayor. He helped bring the Lockheed assembly plant to the  
26 Antelope Valley and was instrumental in the development of the  
27 Antelope Valley and its freeway system; and

28 WHEREAS, ~~Mayor Chimbole, running~~ *After serving as mayor,*  
29 *Larry Chimbole ran* as a Democrat in a highly Republican area,  
30 went on to serve two *consecutive* terms in the California State  
31 Assembly from 1974 to 1978, ~~inclusive~~; and was the first Antelope  
32 Valley resident to ever be elected to the State Legislature. He ~~also~~  
33 *then* served a total of 12 years on the Palmdale City Council, where  
34 he represented the city as the president of the California Contract  
35 Cities Association and as president of the Los Angeles County  
36 Division of the League of California Cities. In 1974, Larry was  
37 responsible for arranging the National Guard Armory to be located  
38 in the City of Palmdale instead of the City of Lancaster; and

39 WHEREAS, ~~After being defeated serving in the 1978 Assembly~~  
40 ~~election~~; *Assembly*, Larry Chimbole continued to serve his

1 community by serving as a member of the State Board of  
2 Landscape Architects, the Antelope Valley Healthcare District  
3 Board of Directors, and the Antelope Valley Fair Board of  
4 Directors; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1996, the Desert Mailer had the front page  
6 headline, “Chimbole just keeps on tickin’.” In the article, when  
7 asked how he would like to be remembered, Larry Chimbole  
8 answered, ~~“I would most like to be remembered that I was active~~  
9 ~~as hell around here in 1960. In 1996, I’m just about as active or~~  
10 ~~more so and I think that’s my legacy”~~; *and stated that his legacy*  
11 *would be how active he was in 1960 and that he remained just as*  
12 *active for the rest of his life; and*

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

19 *WHEREAS, In 2006, city officials immortalized the “50 Grand*  
20 *Men” when they formally presented a beautiful plaque that is*  
21 *currently on display at the Chimbole Cultural Center; and*

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

30 WHEREAS, In 2014, a committee was formed to raise funds  
31 to create a series of bronze statues called “Legendary Locals.” The  
32 first statue in the series was to be of Larry Chimbole. The statue  
33 was dedicated on October 8, 2015, across from the Palmdale City  
34 Hall on a bench in Poncitlán Square. More than 200 people  
35 witnessed the unveiling of the statue entitled “The First Mayor”  
36 which depicts Chimbole seated on a bench with one arm resting  
37 atop the back of the bench to encourage visitors to sit and visit  
38 with a “local legend”; ~~now, therefore, be it and~~

39 *WHEREAS, The residents of the nearby City of Santa Clarita*  
40 *also owe a great deal of gratitude toward the men and women of*

1 *their community who bravely served in the United States Armed*  
2 *Forces; and*

3 *WHEREAS, The Santa Clarita Valley is home to more than*  
4 *10,000 military veterans and their families; and*

5 *WHEREAS, Men and women veterans of that community served*  
6 *their country by making tremendous sacrifices to preserve our*  
7 *freedoms and independence, and by keeping our country strong;*  
8 *and*

9 *WHEREAS, Our selfless men and women veterans are deserving*  
10 *of our recognition to commemorate their courage and patriotism;*  
11 *and*

12 *WHEREAS, These veterans greatly contribute to the quality of*  
13 *life in the City of Santa Clarita through their investment and*  
14 *involvement in the community and by volunteering for a variety*  
15 *of civic activities; now, therefore, be it*

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
17 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature designates the portion of*  
18 *State Route 138 in the County of Los Angeles from the interchange*  
19 *at State Route 14 to 40th Street East in the City of Palmdale as the*  
20 *Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway; and be it further highway*  
21 *that extends from the junction of Newhall Ranch Road and*  
22 *Interstate 5 to Golden Valley Road and Golden Valley Road from*  
23 *its conjunction with Newhall Ranch Road to this junction with*  
24 *State Highway Route 14, commonly known as the Cross Valley*  
25 *Connector, as the Santa Clarita Veterans Parkway in honor of the*  
26 *service that veterans have provided to our great nation; and be it*  
27 *further*

28 *RESOLVED, That the Legislature designates the portion of*  
29 *State Route 138 in the County of Los Angeles from the interchange*  
30 *at State Route 14 to 40th Street East in the City of Palmdale as*  
31 *the Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway; and be it further*

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

36 *Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested*  
37 *to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the*  
38 *signing requirements for the state highway system showing this*  
39 *special designation each of these special designations and, upon*  
40 *receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that*

1 ~~cost,~~ *the cost of the signs for which the donations are made,* to  
2 erect those signs; and be it further  
3 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
4 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author  
5 for appropriate distribution.

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