

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 138

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 160

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 138—Relative to the Senator Sharon Runner Memorial Highway and the Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 1, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 138, Lackey. Senator Sharon Runner Memorial Highway and the Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 14 in the City of Lancaster as the Senator Sharon Runner Memorial Highway and 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 these special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, The honorable Sharon Runner was born on May 17, 1954, in the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, She was a lifelong resident of the City of Lancaster, California; and

WHEREAS, Before embarking on her political career, Ms. Runner cofounded Desert Christian Schools, which has grown to three campuses with nearly 1,700 students; and

WHEREAS, She was a conservative who served in the California State Assembly from 2002 to 2008; and

WHEREAS, She was elected to the California State Senate in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Senator Runner coauthored California's version of Jessica's Law, approved by voters in 2006, to restrict sex offenders from living near parks, schools, and other places where children congregate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Runner served on the board of California Women Lead, a bipartisan organization that encourages and empowers women to run for public office; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, she was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to serve on the Antelope Valley Fair Board of Directors, where she oversaw the operations of the 50th Agriculture District; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, she was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Senator Runner volunteered her time on several boards and committees, including the United Way, Antelope Valley Hospital Gift Foundation, Antelope Valley Crime Task Force, Healthy Homes Advisory Council, and Care Net; and

WHEREAS, She was diagnosed with limited scleroderma, also known as CREST syndrome, in 1984 at the age of 30; and

WHEREAS, She received a double-lung transplant in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Following her high-profile illness and recovery, Senator Runner volunteered with organizations committed to increasing organ donations; and

WHEREAS, She was reelected to the California State Senate in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Senator Sharon Runner passed away on July 14, 2016, after experiencing respiratory complications; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence “Larry” Chimbole was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on May 22, 1919, and graduated from Stamford High School in 1937. During World War II, Chimbole served as a B-29 radio operator in the Army Air Corps on the Pacific Island of Tinian. After World War II, he moved to California and settled in the City of Glendale, before migrating west to the San Fernando Valley, and then moving to the community of Palmdale in 1957; and

WHEREAS, When Larry arrived in the Palmdale area, the population was approximately 7,100 people. There was no incorporated City of Palmdale or City of Lancaster, no Antelope Valley Freeway, no California Aqueduct, no Antelope Valley, Crystalair, or Rancho Vista country clubs, no mall, no high schools, no courthouse, no Board of Trade, no county library, no hospital, no Palmdale Amphitheater, no DryTown Water Park, no Poncitlán Square, and no Palmdale Auto Mall; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, After serving in the Assembly, Larry Chimbole continued to serve his community by serving as a member of the State Board of

Landscape Architects, the Antelope Valley Healthcare District Board of Directors, and the Antelope Valley Fair Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, the Desert Mailer had the front page headline, “Chimbole just keeps on tickin’.” In the article, when asked how he would like to be remembered, Larry Chimbole stated that his legacy would be how active he was in 1960 and that he remained just as active for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, Former Mayor Chimbole continued to be active in his community. In 1999, he served as campaign chair of the United Way Antelope Valley Region; and

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

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

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

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature designates the portion of State Highway Route 14 in the County of Los Angeles from West Avenue H to West Avenue K in the City of Lancaster as the Senator Sharon Runner Memorial Highway; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the sign posted to commemorate the Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway additionally state “Larry Chimbole Memorial Highway: First Mayor of Palmdale”; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing each of these special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost of the signs for which the donations are made, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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