

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 163

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 124

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 163—Relative to a Blue Star Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 16, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 163, Atkins. Blue Star Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate State Highway Route 282 from Orange Avenue in the City of Coronado to Naval Air Station North Island as a Blue Star Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing that designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect the appropriate plaques and markers.

WHEREAS, The Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker program was adopted in 1945 by the National Council of State Garden Clubs and was approved by California Garden Clubs, Inc. in 1947; and

WHEREAS, The Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker program began after World War II to pay tribute to the nation's Armed Forces by designating state and national routes as Blue Star Memorial Highways. The purpose of the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker program is to erect highway markers at roadside rest stops, vista points, historical sites, and other appropriate areas to pay tribute to all who have served, those who are presently serving, and those who will serve in the nation's Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Avenue of Heroes Neighborhood Association from the City of Coronado, California, wish to erect markers along State Highway Route 282 from Orange Avenue in the City of Coronado to Naval Air Station North Island to honor all of the military branches that formed today's North Island and our current service members who are still making sacrifices for our country; and

WHEREAS, The association presented this proposal to the National Council of State Garden Clubs; and

WHEREAS, From international explorers to the First Aero Squadron and from the Spanish-American War to the War on Terror, North Island has been a strategic military post and home to all branches of the United States Armed Forces. North Island served as a base for the beginnings of Army and naval flight, was modernized by the United States Marine Corps, and was an incubator for the United States Coast Guard, Signal Corps, and Air Force; and

WHEREAS, The City of Coronado has the reputation as a “Navy Town,” unchanging in its beautiful Victorian architecture. It has become home to all branches of the armed services and has included many illustrious and famous military retirees; and

WHEREAS, The designation of State Highway Route 282 as a Blue Star Memorial Highway is intended to be in conjunction with the City of Coronado’s Avenue of Heroes Banner Program to honor such heroes as Navy Seal Petty Officer First Class Jeffrey S. Taylor, who was killed in action on June 28, 2005, when the MH-47 helicopter he was aboard on a rescue mission crashed in Kunar Province, Afghanistan; the late Lt. Gen. James Harold “Jimmy” Doolittle, a Medal of Honor recipient, who led 16 American Mitchell B-25 bombers on April 18, 1942, from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Hornet on a raid to bomb the Japanese mainland during World War II and who later commanded the powerful Eighth Air Force in Europe and the Pacific from January 1944 to September 1945; the late Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale, Medal of Honor recipient, Vietnam War hero, and indomitable spirit of the Hanoi Hilton, who was shot down by antiaircraft fire after flying his A-4 Skyhawk off the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany on his last mission and was imprisoned in the Hanoi Hilton by the North Vietnamese; the late United States Navy Commander Francis Fane, who joined the Navy’s underwater demolitions team during World War II, becoming a legend in Navy special forces, developing advanced diving equipment and diving techniques, and laying much of the groundwork for the future Navy Seals; Navy Commander Dean “Diz” Laird, who became the only known U.S. Navy ace to shoot down both German and Japanese airplanes during World War II; Navy Commander Theodore “Spuds” Ellyson, who, while stationed at North Island, the first naval officer assigned to aviation duty, the first passenger of a seaplane, the first pilot to land on water at night, and was the first and only commander of North Island’s Camp Trouble; Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton of the United States Marine Corps, whose foresight, persuasive skills, and focused tenacity made the San Diego area the military center it is today; and, among many more heroes to be honored, Navy Capt. Leonard “Len” Kaine, who became a Top Gun fighter pilot and who was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, The Blue Star Memorial Highway will honor more than 34 past and present members of the Armed Forces along State Highway Route 282’s Avenue of Heroes in the City of Coronado and the list will continue to grow as more banners are added and heroes are recognized; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates State Highway Route 282 from Orange Avenue in the City of Coronado to Naval Air Station North Island as a Blue Star Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation

and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those plaques and markers; 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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