

Introduced by Senator Stone

April 30, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 51—Relative to the Special Deputy Frank Hamilton Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 51, as introduced, Stone. Special Deputy Frank Hamilton Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 371 in the County of Riverside as the Special Deputy Frank Hamilton 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 that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, In 1895, Frank Hamilton, a Native American and
2 a Cahuilla tribal member from the Anza area, was working as a
3 Riverside County special deputy sheriff. Hamilton acted as a law
4 enforcement officer for the Riverside County Sheriff's Office in
5 the areas surrounding the Cahuilla and Ramona Reservations
6 (Anza) area, including the area surrounding the town of San
7 Jacinto. Hamilton had family ties to both reservations; and
8 WHEREAS, Hamilton, who was 34 years of age and unmarried,
9 was the son of a prominent rancher, James Hamilton, namesake
10 of the Hamilton School in the community of Anza. He resided at
11 the family ranch, which was first in Cahuilla, now present day
12 Anza. The ranch then moved to Kenworthy, presently known as
13 Garner Valley; and

1 WHEREAS, In the early years of Riverside County, special
2 deputies were used throughout the county to support the operation
3 of the Riverside County Sheriff's Office. In the first few years of
4 its existence, the Riverside County Sheriff's Office consisted of
5 one sheriff and two deputy sheriffs; and

6 WHEREAS, Riverside County was incorporated on May 9,
7 1893. Special Deputy Frank Hamilton was the first deputy sheriff
8 in Riverside County to be murdered in the line of duty and his
9 killing was the subject of the first murder trial held in Riverside
10 County's history; and

11 WHEREAS, On the evening of April 8, 1895, Special Deputy
12 Frank Hamilton was in the town of San Jacinto tending to his duties
13 as a special deputy sheriff. He was in the town saloon when a
14 disagreement erupted between him and Charles Marshall, who had
15 greeted Special Deputy Frank Hamilton with a racial epithet; and

16 WHEREAS, Marshall became enraged over the disagreement
17 and left. Special Deputy Frank Hamilton had told Marshall to go
18 away and that he did not want any trouble with him, but Marshall
19 retrieved a revolver and went in search of Special Deputy Frank
20 Hamilton; and

21 WHEREAS, Marshall located Special Deputy Frank Hamilton
22 in an alleyway adjacent to the town saloon, and, without warning,
23 began firing, hitting Special Deputy Frank Hamilton twice as he
24 returned fire and managed to wound Marshall; and

25 WHEREAS, Special Deputy Frank Hamilton succumbed to his
26 gunshot wounds the following day, April 9, 1895; now, therefore,
27 be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
30 portion of State Highway Route 371 from Howard Road to Tribal
31 Road near the community of Anza in Riverside County as the
32 Special Deputy Frank Hamilton Memorial Highway; and be it
33 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 the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
39 further

1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
2 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and the author for
3 appropriate distribution.

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