

Introduced by Senator Wright

April 26, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 107—Relative to Rudolph B. Davila Memorial Interchange.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 107, as introduced, Wright. Rudolph B. Davila Memorial Interchange.

This measure would designate the intersection of State Highway Route 110 and State Highway Route 91, in the City of Los Angeles, as the Rudolph B. Davila Memorial Interchange. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for 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, Rudolph B. Davila was born in El Paso, Texas,
2 and was raised in Watts, California. As a young man during the
3 Depression, he worked in vineyards and helped restore the
4 California missions as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps.;
5 and
6 WHEREAS, During World War II, Rudolph B. Davila helped
7 take out several machine gun nests and prevented a 130-man
8 American rifle company from being slaughtered in a German
9 ambush in Italy; and
10 WHEREAS, On June 21, 2000, 56 years later, Rudolph B.
11 Davila, who was a Filipino and Spanish descent, along with 20
12 other Asian American World War II veterans, received a Medal
13 of Honor from President Bill Clinton at a White House ceremony

1 after an army panel reviewed their wartime actions and deemed
2 them worthy of the nation's highest commendation for battlefield
3 bravery; and

4 WHEREAS, Rudolph B. Davila earned the medal for his
5 extraordinary heroism during the offensive that broke through the
6 German mountain strongholds surrounding the Anzio beachhead
7 in May 1944; and

8 WHEREAS, When asked what made him rise to his knees with
9 a machine gun while his fellow soldiers hugged the ground,
10 Rudolph B. Davila said, "I knew what I was fighting for, and most
11 of the kids didn't," he said, ascribing his self-assuredness to
12 accounts he had read of Hitler. "I had this fervour about the defense
13 of freedom, even though I couldn't define freedom. I just knew
14 we were going to be enslaved to Hitler if we didn't defeat him.";

15 and

16 WHEREAS, The war ended for Rudolph B. Davila in late 1944
17 when a tank round exploded in a tree and shrapnel ripped into his
18 right shoulder; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the next six years, he underwent 13 operations
20 on his arm and met his wife, Harriet, at a military hospital in San
21 Francisco, California; and

22 WHEREAS, After the war, Rudolph B. Davila earned bachelor's
23 and master's degrees in sociology from the University of Southern
24 California, and spent 30 years as a teacher and counselor in the
25 Los Angeles City School District; and

26 WHEREAS, Rudolph B. Davila was an excellent cook and
27 gardener. He terraced his hillside yard and built retaining walls.
28 He also built the family's house in Harbor City, California, and
29 his retirement home in Vista, California; and

30 WHEREAS, Rudolph B. Davila died January 26, 2002, in Vista,
31 California, after a long illness and is survived by his children,
32 Jeffrey, Roland, Tana, Gregg, and Jill; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the heroism
35 and courage demonstrated by Rudolph B. Davila during World
36 War II and designates the intersection of State Highway Route
37 110 and State Highway Route 91, in the City of Los Angeles, as
38 the Rudolph B. Davila Memorial Interchange; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
40 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the

1 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
2 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
3 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
4 further

5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
6 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
7 author for appropriate distribution.

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