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ACR-139 Esther Padilla Memorial Highway. (2019-2020)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139

CHAPTER 43

Relative to the Esther Padilla Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 14, 2020.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 139, Arambula. Esther Padilla Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 168 in the County of Fresno as the Esther Padilla Memorial Highway. This measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing that special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal Committee: yes

WHEREAS, Esther V. Negrete Padilla was born in Fowler, California, in 1944 and was one of 12 children born to Onesimo and Carmen Negrete; and

WHEREAS, Esther was a resident of the County of Fresno for 69 years and attended college at California State University, Fresno, receiving her bachelor of arts degree in 1966 and a master's degree in social work in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Esther Negrete Padilla had more than 30 years of social work experience with nonprofit organizations, including working with the Fresno County Department of Social Services, Fresno County Head Start, and the Sequoia Community Health Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Esther volunteered at the United Farm Workers Union for 10 years, negotiating contracts and lobbying in Washington, D.C., where she met her husband Gilbert, who also worked for the United Farm Workers Union, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); and

WHEREAS, Esther provided invaluable community relations, outreach, and media services to the Latino community to raise awareness among Latinos to promote organ and tissue donation; and

WHEREAS, Esther was the first Latina elected to the Fresno City Council, where she served a four-year term representing District 5, a predominately Latino area, from 1991 to 1995, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, Esther also served as the Mayor pro Tempore and on various commissions and boards, including the Fresno County Council of Governments, Local Agency Formation Commission, and Airport Land Use Commission; and

WHEREAS, During her time as a councilmember, Esther played a vital role in the construction of both State Highways 180 and 168 by providing the swing vote that gave the order to begin construction. She also voted in favor of constructing the former

Fresno Grizzlies Stadium, now known as Chukchansi Park; and

WHEREAS, Esther collaborated effectively with school officials and also with local, national, and international elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Esther was preceded in death by her parents, Onesimo and Carmen Negrete; brothers, O. Alfred, Louie, John, Richard D., Raymond, and Jesse Negrete; and sisters, Mary Jackson, Andrea Perez, and Marie Gomez; and

WHEREAS, Esther is survived by her husband, Gilbert Padilla, her daughter, Adelita Padilla, her stepchildren, Rebecca Griggs, Martha Quershi, Thomas Padilla, Yolanda Webb, Jennie Renteria, James Padilla, and Sharon Gallardy, her sisters, Carmen Negrete and Stella Jauregui, her 13 grandchildren, her 16 great grandchildren, one great-great grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the contributions of Esther Padilla to the people of the State of California and designates a segment of State Highway Route 168 beginning at the interchange with State Highway Route 180 and ending at East Shields Avenue in the County of Fresno, as the Esther Padilla Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signage 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 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.