



SCR-12 CAL-FIRE Chief William R. Clayton Memorial Highway. (2021-2022)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12

CHAPTER 81

Relative to the CAL-FIRE Chief William R. Clayton Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 16, 2021.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 12, Bates. CAL-FIRE Chief William R. Clayton Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of Interstate 5 in the City of Carlsbad as the CAL-FIRE Chief William R. Clayton Memorial Highway. The measure would request that the Department of Transportation determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, erect those signs.

Fiscal Committee: yes

WHEREAS, It was with immense sadness and a deep sense of loss that word was received of the death of William R. Clayton on January 28, 2018, a renowned Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) Chief whose character and deeds in life merit gratitude and respectful acknowledgment by the people of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Beginning his 50-year career in firefighting with the United States Forest Service at the Cleveland National Forest in southern California, Bill Clayton also served as a Fire Captain for the Orange County Fire Department, and as the Assistant Chief at the Rainbow Conservation Camp for CAL-FIRE; and

WHEREAS, Bill Clayton also served as the Division Chief for CAL-FIRE, becoming the most decorated CAL-FIRE Chief in the history of that agency; and

WHEREAS, After initially retiring from CAL-FIRE in 1998, Bill Clayton felt the call to return to service and rejoined the agency until he retired again in 2006, when he joined the Sycuan Fire Department as its Chief; and

WHEREAS, Bill Clayton later shared his experience and expertise as a consultant throughout the United States and around the world, traveling to Australia, Portugal, South America, and Iraq to teach wildland firefighting and emergency management; and

WHEREAS, Bill Clayton was awarded his first CAL-FIRE Medal of Valor in 1998 for his actions during a 1997 fire in Escondido, when he drove through a 50-foot wall of flames to rescue three people from their home near Lake Wohlford; and

WHEREAS, Bill Clayton received several other awards and recognitions throughout his career and was presented with his second Medal of Valor in 2006 for his extraordinary efforts in both the Paradise and Cedar fires in the County of San Diego in 2003, when his courageous actions saved the lives of hundreds of people and prevented the devastation of downtown Julian; and

WHEREAS, A true legend in the fire service, Bill Clayton leaves many to mourn his passing and celebrate his legacy, including his son, Chris, his daughter, Anne, his grandchildren, Jacob and Talia, and his wife, Ila; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature joins the family and friends of William R. Clayton in celebrating and revering the accomplishments and legacy of a distinguished and caring individual who lived life to the fullest, whose generosity was extended to everyone without hesitation or expectation of reward, and whose spirit will live forever in the hearts and memories of all his loved ones; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature recognizes the contributions of Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) Chief William R. Clayton to the people of California and designates the portion of Interstate 5 from La Costa Avenue (PM R44.071) to Cannon Road (PM R47.975) in the City of Carlsbad as the CAL-FIRE Chief William R. Clayton 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 Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.