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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68

CHAPTER 103

Relative to the First Lady Pat Nixon Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 01, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 68, Archuleta. First Lady Pat Nixon Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate the portion of State Route 91, from the Pioneer Boulevard undercrossing to the Carmenita Road overcrossing, as the First Lady Pat Nixon Memorial Highway. This measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal Committee: yes

WHEREAS, On March 16, 1912, in Ely, Nevada, First Lady Pat Nixon was born Thelma Catherine Ryan; and

WHEREAS, She was given the nickname Patricia, or "Pat" by her father because she was born just hours shy of Saint Patrick's Day; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nixon attended Pioneer Boulevard Grammar School in the City of Artesia (now the City of Cerritos), California and Excelsior High School in the City of Norwalk, California; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nixon graduated from the University of Southern California in 1937, becoming the first Presidential First Lady to earn a graduate degree, and subsequently began teaching at Whittier Union High School in the City of Whittier, California; and

WHEREAS, Pat met Richard Nixon in February 1938 and they married two years later in the City of Riverside, California; and

WHEREAS, The couple had two daughters, Patricia and Julie Nixon; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her lifetime of service, Mrs. Nixon fundamentally transformed the roles of both Second Lady and First Lady, redefining them for an entire generation of people who would follow her; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, then Second Lady Pat Nixon, as wife of the Vice President of the United States, led an extensive two-month tour through Asia and the Pacific, including visiting Cambodia, Korea, Vietnam, and Japan; and

WHEREAS, On January 20, 1969, Pat Nixon became the First Lady of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nixon championed and supported the societal advancement of women and girls by endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment, becoming the first Presidential First Lady to wear pants in public, and advocating for the appointment of a woman to the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nixon championed volunteer service and donated personal time and efforts to furthering the charitable missions of such notable volunteer organizations as The Salvation Army, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, and the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, In July 1969, Mrs. Nixon visited American troops in South Vietnam, becoming the first Presidential First Lady to travel to a combat zone; and

WHEREAS, Pat Nixon's travels as First Lady included the historic visit to the People's Republic of China, summit meetings in the former Soviet Union, and diplomatic missions to Ghana, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as a journey of compassion to take relief supplies to earthquake victims in Peru; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nixon became known as "America's Ambassador of Goodwill" for her travels to 83 different countries around the world, the most of any First Lady; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Pat Nixon died at home in Park Ridge, New Jersey on June 22, 1993, and is buried at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in the City of Yorba Linda, California; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to commemorate First Lady Pat Nixon's extensive service to our country; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of State Route 91, from the Pioneer Boulevard undercrossing 53-1335, postmile R18.087, to the Carmenita Road overcrossing 53-1432, postmile R20.454, as the First Lady Pat Nixon Memorial Highway, to honor and commemorate Mrs. Nixon's legacy of service to her country; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs 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 of the signs for which the donations were made, to erect those signs; and be it further

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