

Introduced by Senator Gaines

February 27, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to the Paul J. Lunardi Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 23, as introduced, Gaines. Paul J. Lunardi Memorial Highway. This measure would designate State Highway Route 267 in the Counties of Nevada and Placer as the Paul J. Lunardi 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, Paul J. Lunardi was born Sept. 30, 1921, in
2 Roseville, California, and lived his entire life at the family home
3 on Earl Avenue; and
4 WHEREAS, Upon his graduation from Roseville High School,
5 Lunardi enlisted in the United States Coast Guard during World
6 War II. After the war, he was elected to the Roseville City Council
7 in 1950 and 1954, winning the mayoral seat in the latter year; and
8 WHEREAS, During his tenure on the city council, Lunardi was
9 instrumental in the adoption of a city charter for the
10 council-manager form of government and successfully established
11 a community hospital, developed a municipal fire department,
12 established an updated street lighting system, obtained central
13 valley federal power for the city, and expanded sewage, water,
14 and electric distribution systems. His outstanding record of

1 achievement earned Lunardi a highly coveted “Outstanding Young
2 Men of California” award presented by the State Junior Chamber
3 of Commerce on January 8, 1955; and

4 WHEREAS, Lunardi’s entry into politics “was just sort of
5 accidental,” and as he used to say, “I just kind of expressed myself
6 about what was happening in Roseville”; and

7 WHEREAS, Lunardi was elected to the State Assembly in 1958,
8 representing the 6th Assembly District, which spanned 11 mountain
9 counties. He served in the Assembly until 1963 when he was
10 elected to the State Senate to represent the 7th Senate District,
11 which included the Counties of Sierra, Nevada, and Placer. He
12 retired in 1966 due to redistricting; and

13 WHEREAS, One of Lunardi’s proudest accomplishments was
14 his legislation designating the ghost town of Bodie as a State
15 Historic Park. Bodie is now listed on the National Register of
16 Historic Places and is one of the best preserved and most visited
17 (200,000 people a year) ghost towns in the nation; and

18 WHEREAS, Lunardi introduced the first bill in the state’s
19 history to assess farmland at a lower tax rate. The bill later passed
20 with the help of Assemblyman John Williamson and is now known
21 as the Williamson Act; and

22 WHEREAS, Skiers and mountain residents still benefit from
23 one of Lunardi’s major legislative accomplishments that designated
24 the “Truckee shortcut” as State Highway Route 267, that links the
25 City of Truckee to Kings Beach. Prior to 1965, the road was
26 regularly closed by snow in the winter. Lunardi’s legislation
27 enabled the road to remain open year-round, worth millions of
28 dollars to the area’s tourism and ski industries, and allowing for
29 the development of Northstar Ski Resort; and

30 WHEREAS, Lunardi was honored in 2008 when his hometown
31 of Roseville dedicated a park in his name, to honor his civic
32 achievements, and his dedication to the community where he lived
33 his entire life; and

34 WHEREAS, Lunardi passed away peacefully on January 11,
35 2013, at the age of 91, and was laid to rest in his beloved Roseville,
36 California; and

37 WHEREAS, Designating State Highway Route 267, that links
38 the City of Truckee to Kings Beach as the “Paul J. Lunardi
39 Memorial Highway” would be an appropriate honor for this

1 visionary leader who fought to develop this highway; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates State
5 Highway Route 267, that links the City of Truckee to Kings Beach,
6 in the Counties of Nevada and Placer, as the “Paul J. Lunardi
7 Memorial Highway”; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
9 to determine the cost of erecting appropriate signs, consistent with
10 the signing requirements of the state highway system, showing
11 this special designation and, upon receiving donations from
12 nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and be it
13 further

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