

Date of Hearing: July 5, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

ACR 93 (Dixon) – As Introduced June 5, 2023

SUBJECT: Marian Bergeson Memorial Bridge

SUMMARY: Designates the North Arm Newport Bay Bridge on State Route 1, in the County of Orange, as the Marian Bergeson Memorial Bridge. The measure would also request the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources to cover that cost, to erect those signs.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways. This includes the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans determine the cost of appropriate signage consistent with requirements for the state highway system, and only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

COMMENTS: Marian C. Bergeson was born on August 31, 1925, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. Marian began her lifelong endeavor to improve education as a teacher in the City of Santa Monica and was elected to the Newport-Mesa Board of Education in 1964, where she was elected to four terms. The Orange County School Boards Association established the Marian Bergeson Award in 1974, which is presented annually to district trustees who promote public education through their governing board service and community efforts.

Marian was elected in 1978 to serve in the Assembly, where she served three terms. She was elected in 1984 to serve in the Senate, where she also served three terms and served as chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Local Government. Marian was the first woman to serve in both the Assembly and Senate of California.

The Marian Bergeson Elementary School in the City of Laguna Niguel was named in Marian's honor in 1986. Marian won the Republican nomination for, and ran for, Lieutenant Governor of California in 1990 and was elected to the Board of Supervisors for the County of Orange with more than 98 percent of the vote in 1994. Governor Pete Wilson appointed Marian as the Secretary for Education in 1996.

In 1999, outgoing Governor Pete Wilson and incoming Governor Gray Davis agreed to appoint Marian to the State Board of Education. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Marian to the California Transportation Commission in 2004 and 2008.

Marian's accolades include, but are not limited to, the UCI Medal in 2003, the National Conference for Community Justice Humanitarian of the Year in 2000, Woman of the Year from the Assembly in 1997, Lifetime Achievement from the Senate in 1997, and the Orange County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award in 1989.

Marian passed away on July 6, 2016, at 90 years of age, in the City of Newport Beach, survived by her husband, Garth; three children: Garth Jr., Julie, and James; and 11 grandchildren.

In recognition of Marian Bergeson's service to the State of California, it would be fitting to designate the North Arm Newport Bay Bridge in her honor

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Aimee Anspach / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093