

Date of Hearing: 07-05-2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Laura Friedman, Chair

SCR 31 (Laird) – As Introduced February 17, 2023

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Katcho Achadjian Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: Requests the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) remove the “the Katcho Achadjian Memorial Highway” designation from the portion of U.S. Route 101 in the County of San Luis Obispo, from postmile 19.812 to postmile 15.579; and instead designates the portion of U.S. Route 101 in the County of San Luis Obispo, from postmile 13.173 to postmile 17.767, as the “Katcho Achadjian Memorial Highway” and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including 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: On March 5, 2020, California lost one of its most regarded and renowned public officials ever to serve its people, the Honorable Katcho Achadjian, former Member of the California State Assembly, whose good deeds earned him the respect and admiration of his family, friends, and colleagues and the countless individuals whose lives he touched.

Distinguishing himself in life in various capacities, including as a business owner, legislator, community volunteer, and devoted family man, Katcho Achadjian was born to Armenian parents in Jalala, Lebanon, in 1951 and immigrated to the United States in 1971 to continue his education.

After settling in California’s central coast, Katcho Achadjian attended Cuesta Community College before transferring to California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he received his degree in business administration and later shared his experience and expertise teaching political science classes.

A pillar in the City of Arroyo Grande’s business community, Katcho Achadjian opened his first business, a Shell Gas Station on Grand Avenue, in 1978 and went on to operate three gas stations.

After obtaining his United States citizenship on December 17, 1982, Katcho Achadjian married his beloved wife, Araxie, two years later and was blessed with two adorable children, Hratch and Nyri, both of whom were taught the strong work ethic that had been instilled in him in his youth.

In 1998, Katcho Achadjian was elected to the County of San Luis Obispo’s Board of Supervisors, where he served as chair of the board in 2001 and 2006 and contributed to the

passage of the county's budget, balanced and on time for 12 consecutive years, during his three terms on the board.

In 2010, Katcho Achadjian made the jump to state government when he was elected to represent the 33rd Assembly District, later redrawn as the 35th Assembly District, in the California State Legislature.

While holding state office, Katcho Achadjian served on the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, the Committee on Banking and Finance, and the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy in the Assembly, where his dedicated and diligent service helped shape some of the most important laws enacted in California.

During his tenure, Katcho Achadjian authored several bills, including Assembly Bill 65 in 2013 (Chapter 259 of the Statutes of 2013), which closed a loophole in the state's definition of rape.

A true public servant renowned for his superb ability to broker compromises with diverse groups of people in order to forge solutions to the challenges that faced the community, Katcho Achadjian was a long-time supporter of civic, service, and nonprofit organizations, coastal ranching and farming, and protecting the California coastline.

Katcho Achadjian was a charter member of the San Luis Obispo Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation's Board of Directors, served on the County of San Luis Obispo's Sheriff's Advisory Council, served on the Board of Directors of the Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, and provided leadership as chair of the County of San Luis Obispo's First 5 Commission and the French Hospital Medical Center.

The high esteem in which Katcho Achadjian was held by his loving family, his numerous friends and colleagues, and those fortunate enough to have known him stands as a testament for others who strive for the best in every aspect of their life.

Katcho Achadjian's memory will live forever in the hearts and minds of his beloved wife, Araxie, his children, Hratch and Nyri, and a host of other family members and many longtime friends.

This resolution updates Assembly Concurrent Resolution 126 of the 2021–22 Regular Session (Chapter 158 of the Resolutions of 2022) by changing the postmile endpoints for the portion of U.S. Route 101 in the County of San Luis Obispo intended for designation in honor of Katcho Achadjian.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

John Peschong, District One Supervisor, County of San Bernardino

Opposition

None on file

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