

- 4) The author or co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located, and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.
- 5) The segment of highway being named must not exceed five miles in length.
- 6) The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.
- 7) The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.

This resolution:

- 1) Recounts the life and career of James Dean.
- 2) Rescinds the designation in honor of James Dean made by SCR 52 (O'Connell, Chapter 107, Statutes of 2002) designating the junction of State Highway Route 41 and State Highway Route 46 near Cholame in the County of San Luis Obispo as the James Dean Memorial Junction.
- 3) Designates the portion of State Highway Route 46 in the County of San Luis Obispo, from Cholame, at postmile 54.038, to Antelope Road, at postmile 58.300, as the James Dean Memorial Highway.
- 4) Requests Caltrans 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 that cost, to erect those signs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose of the resolution.* According to the author, "ACR 101 would designate a portion of State Highway Route 46 in the County of San Luis Obispo as the James Dean Memorial Highway. James Dean's legacy has been significant to American pop culture and defined rebellious, countercultural attitudes for generations. On the Central Coast, James Dean will be remembered for award-winning roles in films such as East of Eden, which celebrates our region. Although his life was tragically cut short by a car accident in San Luis Obispo County, his memory and contributions will live on."

- 2) *Background.* James Byron Dean, an admired movie star and an icon of American culture, was born on February 8, 1931, in Marion, Indiana. He later moved to California and attended Santa Monica City College and the University of California, Los Angeles.

He is best known for his roles in “East of Eden,” “Rebel Without a Cause,” and “Giant,” and he also appeared on television shows and in a Broadway play. As a successful actor, he attained cult status in little more than a year’s time, personifying the restless American youth of the mid-1950s.

He was tragically killed on September 30, 1955, in an automobile crash on State Highway Route 46 in the County of San Luis Obispo while traveling in his automobile on the way to a racing event. Many decades after his death, James Dean remains widely admired as an accomplished actor, and this resolution seeks to recognize his contributions through a designation of a memorial highway near the site of his untimely death.

The Legislature, through the adoption of SCR 52 (O’Connell, Chapter 107, Statutes of 2002), designated the junction of State Highway Route 41 and State Highway Route 46 near Cholame in the County of San Luis Obispo as the James Dean Memorial Junction. This resolution would rescind SCR 52 and instead designate the portion of State Highway Route 46 in the County of San Luis Obispo, from Cholame, at postmile 54.038, to Antelope Road, at postmile 58.300, as the James Dean Memorial Highway.

- 3) *Consistent with committee policy.* This resolution is consistent with committee policy.

RELATED/PREVIOUS LEGISLATION:

SCR 52 (O’Connell, Chapter 107, Statutes of 2002) – Designated the junction of State Highway Route 41 and State Highway Route 46 near Cholame in the County of San Luis Obispo as the James Dean Memorial Junction.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.)

SUPPORT:

None received.

OPPOSITION:

None received.

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