

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Tavaglione

SUBMITTAL DATE: November 8, 2005

SUBJECT: Designation of Van Buren Boulevard as "Veteran's Memorial Highway".

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors officially designate and post Van Buren Boulevard from its beginning point in Mira Loma, to its termination at Interstate 215, as Riverside County's "Veteran's Memorial Highway".

BACKGROUND: Van Buren Boulevard has special meaning in our county and regions military history, in that certain facilities adjoining the boulevard have provided logistical support in U.S. military conflicts over the past 7 decades. At its beginning point in Mira Loma, Van Buren adjoins what used to be the regions military weapons depot, now known as the "Space Center". At this location, military supplies were transported by rail and stored at the center for future distribution. As you travel southwesterly along Van Buren, and into the City of Riverside, Rohr Aircraft (at the corner of Arlington & Van Buren), once built and supplied aircraft motors and parts for the U.S. Air Force. As you approach the terminus point Van Buren, the military and veteran history is quite present, as you pass by the former headquarters of the 15th Air Force (now Ben Clark Training Center), Air Force Village West (Air Force Retirement Community), and Riverside National Cemetery, home of the nations Medal of Honor Memorial. Finally, at the immediate terminus of Van Buren Boulevard, we are fortunate to have the still active March Reserve Base, and the remnants (though few) of Camp Hahn.

For many decades, Riverside County has enjoyed a tremendous presence of our military services. It is time we do more to recognize the rich history of our military and the men and women who have served and still serve on behalf of all Americans. It is for this reason that I recommend that Van Buren Boulevard be designated as Riverside County, Veteran's Memorial Highway.


John Tavaglione
Second District Supervisor