



Consent Sept 17, 2019

Office of the
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR**

Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Brian Sullivan
Legislative Affairs and Communications Manager

DATE: September 11, 2019

SUBJECT: Resolution Requesting the Legislature Designate SR 510 Bridge #53 as the
“A.B. Michael Bridge”

BACKGROUND

A.B. Michael moved to the Indian River region in 1886 and was a strong proponent of Indian River Citrus having started his own citrus grove on Orchid Isle in 1902. He later became manager and president of Deerfield Groves in 1917; helped manage American Fruit Growers from 1919 to 1946; helped form the Indian River Citrus League in the 1930's; and served on the Florida Citrus Commission from 1945 to 1949. Due to his achievements and dedication to the industry, Florida Citrus Mutual refers to A.B. Michael as the “Dean of the Florida Citrus Industry”.

A.B. Michael was also very active in other aspects of the Indian River community. He assisted in the construction of the Wabasso Bridge Causeway and the Community of Orchid School House. Additionally, A.B. Michael was a strong supporter of Little League baseball in Indian River County and Michael Field in Vero Beach is named in his honor.

ISSUE

Section 334.071, Florida Statutes authorizes the Legislature to designate a transportation facility for honorary or memorial purposes and to direct the Department of Transportation to place markers reflecting such designation. Additionally, Section 334.071 further states that erection of those markers is contingent on the appropriate county or city commission passing a resolution in support of the particular honorary designation.

In 1964, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution requesting the Legislature enact legislation designating the bridge as the “A.B. Michael Bridge”. However, according to the Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) list of current road designations, SR 510 Bridge #53, the Wabasso Bridge Causeway, is designated as the “A.B. *Mitchell* Bridge”. It is unclear based on the information provided by FDOT when the Legislature officially approved this designation.

Accordingly, based on the 1964 resolution passed by the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners, staff believes the bridge designation was intended to honor A.B. Michael and, instead, was mistakenly designated as the “A.B. *Mitchell*” bridge.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached proposed Resolution, which requests the Florida Legislature enact legislation designating SR 510 Bridge #53 as the “A.B. Michael Bridge” and which also requests the Florida Legislature direct FDOT to erect markers on the bridge reflecting that designation.

ATTACHMENTS

Provided for the Board of County Commissioners information is the following:

- Information related to A.B. Michael’s contributions to Indian River County
- 1964 Resolution of the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners
- FDOT Road Designation List
- Florida Statute 334.071
- Proposed Resolution