

"The Ridge Route"

Award Nomination 2008-2009.

American Society of Civil Engineers | Los Angeles Section

Each year, through the efforts of the History and Heritage Committee, the Section dedicates a historic landmark. These landmarks remind us of the efforts of engineers and how they have solved engineering challenges throughout history. These dedications begin through the diligent efforts of a project champion. This champion works with the project from the inception through the dedication by handling all the logistics, development of the plaque, and the ceremony

The Section, through the efforts of Warren Minner, P.E. LM. ASCE, dedicated the Ridge Route as a significant civil engineering landmark. The Ridge Route was the main roadway between Southern California and the Central Valley. This route was instrumental in providing a link between the two agricultural regions of California and was largely responsible for the economic growth of the state.

The committee, working under the leadership of Warren Minner, succeeded in securing a prominent permanent location for the monument. This work included the construction of a concrete pad and landscaping. The monument is located at the Department of Water Resources Visitor Center at Pyramid Lake and overlooks Interstate 5, the highway that eventually replaced the Ridge Route.

The dedication was October 18, 2008 and featured folk music, refreshments and remarks from Warren Minner, Section President Don Sepulveda, Caltrans District Director for Maintenance – Dan Freeman, and Historian Harrison Scott.

The Section is working on the dedication of a plaque honoring Marilyn Jorgenson Reese, the first licensed woman civil engineer in California. Our History and Heritage Committee has been working on procuring funding and a location for this dedication. The Section has provided the funding and has worked to procure a location for the plaque. The dedication is expected to occur this fall.

The Section worked closely with the Engineers Without Borders in publicizing events through our Calendar, emails and website so that all ASCE members are informed of mutually beneficial events.

Through the ASCE LA Section YMF, whose chair serves on the ASCE LA Section Board, numerous exhibits and public service projects were undertaken. Section members were invited to participate in all of the events. In some of the events, such as the Popsicle Bridge Contest discussed under Part E, the Section President Don Sepulveda, P.E., F. ASCE was a keynote speaker. The events were well publicized, funded and supported by the ASCE LA Section. These events provide a vital service for the membership of the Section. In addition to the numerous outreach events that the Section YMF groups, they also work closely with our ten ASCE student chapters to ensure that they have the tools that they need to succeed.