



**BILL HORN**  
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE:** September 15, 2009

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** Resolution of Support for Historic Marker for Minter's Ranch Affair  
(District: 5)

**SUMMARY:**

**Overview**

Though there were no Civil War battles occurring in California, there was an armed conflict between Confederate and Union forces at the foot of Angel Mountain in northern San Diego County. Since ultimately no shots were fired, this action has been classed as an "affair." The site of the incident is unmarked.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is seeking a resolution of support from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors for a marker to commemorate the Minter's Ranch Affair. The organization is federally-chartered and legal heir of the Grand Army of the Republic and would raise the necessary funds for purchase of the marker and erect it at their cost.

Among the requirements of the California Office of Historic Preservation is the concurrence of the local government over the area where markers are located.

**Recommendation(s)**

**SUPERVISOR HORN**

1. Accept supporting research on the events of November 29, 1861 when an armed confrontation resulted in the capture of eighteen men led by California Assemblyman Daniel Showalter who were bound for Texas to join the Confederate States Army.
2. Adopt a Resolution entitled "In Support of a Marker for Civil War Affair at Minter's Ranch."

Send the resolution to Gene C. Armistead, Chairman – Minter's Ranch Project, Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, SUVCW, 747 Mycorte Drive, Escondido, CA 92026 and a letter of support for the organization to apply for a State Historical Marker commemorating the event of November 29, 1861.

**SUBJECT:** Support of a Marker for Civil War Affair at Minter's Ranch –  
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**Fiscal Impact**

This will result in no additional staff and no additional costs

**Business Impact Statement**

This has the potential to add to our tourism attractions

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

California's role in the American Civil War is not widely known. There are only three historic markers in our State (Camp Wright in Oak Grove, Drum Barracks in Wilmington, and Camp Union in Sutterville) pertaining exclusively to the Civil War. Though there were no Civil War battles occurring in California, there was an armed conflict between Confederates and Union Forces. Since ultimately no shots were fired, this action has been classed (by Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion) as an "affair." This incident occurred in San Diego County and its site is unmarked.

This event occurred on 29 November 1861 at Minter's (now Angel's) Ranch at the foot of Angel Mountain in northern San Diego County when a patrol of the 1st California Cavalry led by 2nd Lieutenant Chancey R. Wellman captured a party of 18 heavily-armed men led by former California Assembly Speaker Daniel Showalter who were bound for Texas to formally join the Confederate Army. (Showalter later rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel in the Confederate Sates Army.)

The Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) (a federally-chartered organization and legal heir of the Grand Army of the Republic) believes that the incident at Minter's Ranch, the closest thing to a Civil War battle in California should be memorialized. Since the actual site is not accessible to the public and not near any major road, SUVCW is proposing that a State Historical Site marker be erected at nearby Lake Henshaw. There are several such markers in California not located at the actual site including one to Pegleg Smith in this county. Support and consent for the historical marker has been given by the Vista Irrigation District which owns the property (copy of their resolution available on request).

Among the requirements of the California Office of Historic Preservation is the concurrence of the local government over the area where the marker would be located. Since Lake Henshaw is in an unincorporated area of the County of San Diego, SUVCW is seeking support of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors by way of an official resolution of support for the endeavor which can be submitted with the application for a marker. SUVCW guarantees there would be no cost to the County since the organization promises to raise the necessary funds for purchase of the marker and the costs to erect it.

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Support of the resolution (Page 3) will allow SUVCW to achieve their objective and provide a permanent history lesson for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

BILL HORN  
Supervisor, Fifth District

**SUBJECT:** Support of a Marker for Civil War Affair at Minter's Ranch –  
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Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Date: October 13, 2009

Resolution  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
In Support of a Marker for  
“Civil War Affair at Minter's Ranch”

WHEREAS on November 29, 1861 at Minter's Ranch (approximately 2 miles southwest of Lake Henshaw in North San Diego County, a patrol of the 1<sup>st</sup> California Cavalry commanded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chancey R. Wellman, after an armed confrontation, captured eighteen men led by California Assemblyman Daniel Showalter who were bound for Texas to join the Confederate States Army; and

WHEREAS, this event is believed to be the only armed confrontation between Civil War Union and Confederate forces in California; and

WHEREAS, the site of this event has not been memorialized by a State Historical Marker for a California Point of Historical Interest; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Henshaw and the Warner Ranch (specifically 26439 Highway 76, Santa Ysabel, CA) are owned by the Vista Irrigation District (VID) and the VID supports the historical marker project; and

WHEREAS, the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp No. 21 of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War propose to apply for a State Historical Marker commemorating the site of this event

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors supports the efforts of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp No. 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to memorialize the “Civil War Affair at Minter's Ranch” by having a California State marker for a Point of Historical Interest at 26439 Highway 76, Santa Ysabel, CA within the County of San Diego.

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**CONCURRENCE(S)**

<b>COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A
<b>COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A

**Other Concurrence(s):** N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Supervisor Bill Horn, Fifth District

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:** \_\_\_\_\_