What’s in a Name?
Jefferson Davis National Highway in Arizona
What/Where is the Jefferson Davis National Highway?
Jefferson Davis National Highway- History

Report to the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) Annual Convention. New Orleans, 1913

“That the United Daughters of the Confederacy secure for an ocean to ocean highway from Washington to San Diego, through the Southern States, the name of Jefferson Davis National Highway; the same to be beautified and historic places on it suitably and permanently marked.”

Jefferson Davis National Highway- History

That was the plan. How did it work out in reality?
1910s: Toothless or nonexistent State Highways agencies meant any organization could name and promote a route themselves.

1920s: U.S. roads a hodgepodge of named routes from over 250 organizations.

1925: Joint Board on Interstate Highways creates United States Numbered Highway System to eliminate confusion. Numbering process disregards route names, focuses only on best route alignments.

UDC unsuccessfully attempts to get one number assigned to the Jefferson Davis Highway.
“A careful search has been made in our extensive map file in the Bureau of Public Roads and three maps showing the Jefferson Davis highways have been located, but the routes on these maps are themselves different and neither route is approximately that described by you, so that I am somewhat at a loss as to just what route your constituents are interested in.”
James, August 10, 1925

“You will understand, of course, that the Government has never officially recognized any of the named trails sponsored by various civic organizations ... Maps of the Jefferson Davis Highway available were not consistent, but it appears that among the numbered routes selected by the Joint Board a very substantial part of the route so called has been included.”

James, August 27, 1925

“I am very glad to get this map, which is apparently the first complete map of the Jefferson Davis Highway available to this office .... my conclusion is that the Jefferson Davis Highway is in reality a collection of routes.”
Without Federal support, the UDC shifted gears to the States, forms Jefferson Davis National Highway Committee.

Each UDC state division appoints a chair to Committee, reports at annual UDC Convention.

Markers placed at state borders for continuity.

David Rumsey Map Collection. 
https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~266370~90040726:Jefferson-Davis-National-Highway
Jefferson Davis National Highway
Arizona- History
Two entities in play:
The monument, and the road
Research Questions:

1. Does “Jefferson Davis Memorial Monument” or some variant ascribed to the monument exist by any official naming process, beyond its literal inscription?

2. Does the name appear on any maps?
Research Questions:

1. Does the Jefferson Davis National Highway name, or some variant, legally or officially exist in Arizona?

2. If so, to which route/alignment does the designation apply?

3. Do any Arizona maps show the designation?
1925: House Concurrent Resolution No 3. to designate the “Arizona Division of the Jefferson Davis National Highway.”

First Reading- Committee on Highways and Bridges
Second Reading- Committee on Printing
Third Reading- Committee on Enrolling Engrossing
Resolution passed House- 43 Ayes, 1 Nay

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3. By Mr. Orme of Maricopa, relating to Jefferson-Davis National Highway.

First Reading ................................................................. 160
Second Reading ............................................................. 171, 172
Third Reading, passed ...................................................... 185, 194, 195
Died in Senate.

Journal of the Arizona House of Representatives, 1925
Jefferson Davis National Highway
Arizona- History

Proposed route in Resolution (approximate)
1929- UDC’s Jefferson Davis Highway Committee first approached Arizona Highways Commission and Arizona Highway Department (both created 1927) about placing markers to designate Highway

1931- Commission states that no markers can be placed on the State’s right-of-way

1932- Central Arizona Highway Association received a letter from UDC requesting placement of two markers on Central Arizona Highway

1932- Arizona Good Roads Association passed resolution approving placement of markers on the Arizona-California and Arizona-New Mexico borders

1932- Commission instructs State Engineer to report on the physical conditions of the highway where the UDC requested placement of marker. Commission files Engineer’s report two months later.
1943- Marker erected in Duncan, Arizona near the New Mexico border, on U.S. 70

1961- Arizona Highways Commission approved UDC request to designate U.S. 80 as the Jefferson Davis National Highway in Arizona

1962- Arizona Highways Department moved marker from Duncan to current location in Gold Canyon

1989- U.S. 80 decommissioned, portion from Benson to Arizona-New Mexico border northeast of Apache is re-designated State Route 80.

2017- Arizona Department of Transportation formally stated that it does not recognize Jefferson Davis National Highway on any road in the state of Arizona.
UDC Will Dedicate Marker

For Jefferson Davis Highway

Plans are being rushed to completion by the Arizona division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy for the dedication tomorrow of a marker for the Jefferson Davis highway at the Arizona-New Mexico state line. The marking of this highway has been a project for several years of the organization and markers have been placed along the highway throughout its length from coast to coast.

The dedication services will be held at the state line at 10:30 a.m. Plans for the affair are in charge of Mrs. S. R. Christian, Arizona director, Jefferson Davis highway committee.

The Duncan High School band, accompanied by its majorettes will lead the formal procession. They will present a series of old Southern numbers and lead the group singing of the official Jefferson Davis highway song written and composed by two ex-presidents of the national UDC organization.

The Arizona highway department has built the foundation for the marker and will place the marker thereon. This work has been in charge of Bernard Touhey, state engineer; R. C. Perkins, district engineer; and Earl V. Miller, plans and surveying engineer.

The program will be in charge of Mrs. Harry R. Pryor, Arizona division president; J. Vernon McGrath, Mount Graham State of Latter Day Saints Church; and Duncan, will give the invocation followed by an address prepared by Governor Osborn but delivered by Dr. P. E. Calvert, secretary of state. The subject will be “Jefferson Davis, U. S. Secretary of War—the Part He Took in Building of the West.” Mrs. Christian will give the address of welcome, and Mrs. Wright will speak on “The History of the Jefferson Davis Highway and other UDC Activities.”

Mrs. J. M. Harmon, past Arizona division president, will unveil the marker which will be presented to the state by Mrs. Wright.

Mrs. R. H. Atwood, past division president, is chairman of arrangements.

Junior Guild Sets Opening Meeting

Fall activities of the Junior Guild of Trinity Cathedral will begin Thursday when members assemble at 2 o’clock in the Bishop Atwood House for a business meeting and tea.

Harold B. Powers, assistant county agricultural agent, will conduct a question box on various phases of gardening. Members who have garden problems may present them at this time.

They’ll sing “Dixie” and the Arizona Highway Song. The public is invited.
Jefferson Davis National Highway Monument
Jefferson Davis National Highway Monument
Jefferson Davis National Highway Monument

Jefferson Davis National Highway Monument

The only official name for a feature in this location is “Superstition Mountain Monument,” as entered in GNIS.

Superstition Mountain Monument entered in the GNIS database June 27, 1984

- ASBGHN’s first meeting was held on October 10, 1984
- USBGN likely entered the name from an ADOT county highway map

Within the GNIS, there is no feature in Arizona that officially includes “Jefferson Davis” in the name.
Jefferson Davis National Highway
U.S. 80

USGS. Tombstone SE 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle. 1952
Jefferson Davis National Highway
U.S. 80

USGS. Tombstone SE 7.5’ Topographic Quadrangle. 1996
Jefferson Davis National Highway  
U.S. 80

USGS. Tombstone SE 7.5’ Topographic Quadrangle. 1952, rev. 1978
Jefferson Davis National Highway
Arizona State Route 80

ADOT. General Highway Map Cochise County, 1977, rev. 1992
Why are we talking about this now? So what?
Shooting, Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, June 2015.

Launched campaigns to de-Confederate the U.S. public landscape.
Southern Poverty Law Center documented over 1,700 Confederate monuments in the United States, excepting “thousands of monuments, markers or other tributes that were on or in battlefields, museums, cemeteries and other places that are largely historical in nature.”
The dedication of Confederate monuments and the use of Confederate names and other iconography began shortly after the Civil War ended in 1865. But two distinct periods saw significant spikes. The first began around 1900 as Southern states were enacting Jim Crow laws to disenfranchise African Americans and re-segregate society after several decades of integration that followed Reconstruction. It lasted well into the 1920s, a period that also saw a strong revival of the Ku Klux Klan. Many of these monuments were sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The second period began in the mid-1950s and lasted until the late 1960s, the period encompassing the modern civil rights movement. While new monument activity has died down, since the 1980s the Sons of Confederate Veterans has continued to erect new monuments.

*This chart does not include monuments or other symbols for which the dedication dates are unknown. The hollow circles indicate the dedication dates for symbols that have been removed from public spaces.*
The largest Confederate monument in America can’t be taken down

It has to be renamed, state by state.

By Kevin Waite
August 22, 2017
New Orleans removes four Confederate statues, May 2017

Reignites debate
Arizona De-Confederate Efforts 2.0

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names receives three proposals in August, 2017

1. Change monument to Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Highway Monument
2. Change name to Governor Rose Mofford Memorial Highway
3. Un-name Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway
ASBGNHN has no statutory authority to remove or relocate any monuments.

The Board can name and rename “geographic features” and “places of historical significance.”

This includes roads and artificial monuments.

However, ASBGNHN cannot name or rename designated “historic” or “scenic” roads (at the time; new legislation removes this limitation beginning July, 2019).
In July, 2016 the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation submitted an application to ADOT’s Parkways, Historic and Scenic Roads Advisory Committee to designate the old US 80 route as the “Historic Arizona US Route 80”

In June, 2017 PHSRAC voted unanimously to recommend approval

The Arizona State Transportation Board nearing a final decision, as of July, 2018.
Taking Matters into Their Own Hands
De-Confederate

San Diego Terminus, Horton Park Plaza

Plaque removed by San Diego City Council, August 2017
Questions?

Comments?