

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 16

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 68

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 16—Relative to the Gerald “Blackie” Sawyer Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 7, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 16, Hagman. Gerald “Blackie” Sawyer Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 39 (Beach Blvd.) in the City of Buena Park from Hillsborough Drive to Stage Road as the Gerald “Blackie” Sawyer Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, Detective Gerald “Blackie” Wayne Sawyer was born on November 19, 1941, in the City of Los Angeles, California, the eldest of two children, to Warren and Alice Sawyer; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, Detective Sawyer graduated from Excelsior High School in the City of Norwalk, California, where he was a very active student and played football; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, Detective Sawyer married Rosella McFarland and continued living in the City of Norwalk, California; and

WHEREAS, In 1963 Detective Sawyer began attending the Los Angeles Police Academy, where he attained his ultimate desire by becoming a proud member of the Los Angeles Police Department where he served for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, Detective Sawyer relocated to the City of La Mirada, where he resided with his wife Rosella, son Brian, and newborn daughter Christy; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, Detective Sawyer began coaching the La Mirada Monarchs, a Pop Warner youth football team, leading them to an undefeated championship season; and

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, November 6, 1973, Detective Gerald Sawyer was shot and killed while working in a joint undercover investigation with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. Detective Sawyer was shot by a cocaine trafficker during an attempted robbery of a \$144,000 flashroll; and

WHEREAS, The trafficker and an accomplice were arrested at the scene by other narcotics detectives and charged with first degree murder; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, Detective Sawyer was awarded the Medal of Valor, the highest award given an officer, for his ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, In the years following Detective Sawyer's tragic death, countless police officers and detectives nationwide have been made safer because of the training film outlining his death; and

WHEREAS, Detective Sawyer was survived by his parents Warren Sawyer and Alice Sawyer, his wife, Rosella Sawyer, his children, Brian Sawyer and Christy Sawyer, and his brother Thomas Sawyer; and

WHEREAS, In honor of Detective Sawyer's service and sacrifice, it would be a fitting tribute to designate a portion of State Highway Route 39 as the Detective Gerald "Blackie" Sawyer Memorial Highway; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of State Highway Route 39 (Beach Blvd.) from Hillsborough Drive to Stage Road as the Detective Gerald "Blackie" Sawyer Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.