

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 67

Introduced by Assembly Member Plescia
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Haynes, Shirley Horton, La Suer,
Saldana, Vargas, Walters, and Wyland)
(Coauthors: Senators Ducheny, Hollingsworth, Kehoe, and Morrow)

May 5, 2005

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to the Wadie P. Deddeh State Office Building.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 67, as introduced, Plescia. Wadie P. Deddeh State Office Building.

This measure would designate the Department of Transportation District 11 office building in San Diego as the Wadie P. Deddeh State Office Building.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Wadie P. Deddeh, a former member of the
2 California Senate and Assembly, was born in Baghdad, Iraq, on
3 September 6, 1920, as the oldest boy in a family of six children;
4 and
5 WHEREAS, Mr. Deddeh spent much of his early life in
6 Ahwaz, Iran, where his father worked for a British shipping
7 company; and
8 WHEREAS, Mr. Deddeh was encouraged by his mother to get
9 an education, and he graduated from high school and was
10 accepted to Baghdad College, where he earned a degree in
11 English and a teaching credential; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1947, after waiting nine years, Mr. Deddeh
2 obtained a visa to the United States, residing first in Detroit,
3 where he worked in grocery stores, and later in Monterey, where
4 he became a teacher of Arabic at the United States Army
5 Language School; and

6 WHEREAS, While in Monterey, Mr. Deddeh met his future
7 wife, Mary-Lynn Drake, who was also a teacher, and they
8 married in 1951 and eventually moved to Detroit, where Mr.
9 Deddeh earned a master's degree in education from the
10 University of Detroit; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1956, the Deddehs were blessed with the birth
12 of their only child, Peter, who is now a San Diego Superior Court
13 Judge; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1959, the Deddehs returned to California,
15 settling in Chula Vista, and Mr. Deddeh returned to teaching,
16 first at Sweetwater Union High School and later at Southwestern
17 Community College, where he taught political science; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1966, following through on his long-time
19 interest and passion for American government and politics, Mr.
20 Deddeh sought and won election to the Assembly, representing
21 the 77th District, serving 16 years in that capacity; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Deddeh developed an expertise in
23 transportation, sponsoring legislation to enhance transportation
24 funding and creating the Department of Transportation, among
25 other achievements; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1982, Mr. Deddeh was elected to the Senate,
27 representing the 40th District upon the retirement of Senator
28 James Mills, where he served until 1993, chairing committees
29 related to transportation, commerce, and international trade and
30 border issues; and

31 WHEREAS, Since his retirement, Mr. Deddeh has been a
32 college professor, a governmental affairs consultant, and a
33 representative of the Titan Corporation, serving as a liaison with
34 Arab-American groups and structuring training programs for
35 interpreters serving with the United States military in Iraq; and

36 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to commemorate Mr. Deddeh's
37 years of public service to California and the nation through the
38 naming of a state transportation office building in his honor;
39 now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Department of Transportation
3 District 11 office building in San Diego shall be designated as the
4 Wadie P. Deddeh State Office Building; and be it further
5 *Resolved,* That a copy of this resolution be provided by the
6 Secretary of the Senate to the Director of Transportation and to
7 the author for appropriate distribution.

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