

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67**

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 100

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

[Filed with Secretary of State August 30, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 67, 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.

WHEREAS, Wadie P. Deddeh, a former Member of the California Senate and Assembly, was born in Baghdad, Iraq, on September 6, 1920, as the oldest boy in a family of six children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deddeh spent much of his early life in Ahwaz, Iran, where his father worked for a British shipping company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deddeh was encouraged by his mother to get an education, and he graduated from high school and was accepted to Baghdad College, where he earned a degree in English and a teaching credential; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Department of Transportation District 11 office building in San Diego shall be designated as the Wadie P. Deddeh State Office Building; and be it further

*Resolved,* That a copy of this resolution be provided by the Secretary of the Senate to the Director of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.