

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 66

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to the Norman Y. Mineta Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 3, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 25, Lieber. Norman Y. Mineta Highway.

This measure would designate State Highway Route 85, except for a specified segment, in Santa Clara County as the Norman Y. Mineta Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this designation and, upon receiving donations from appropriate nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, Norman Y. Mineta was born on November 12, 1931, in San Jose, California; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Mineta and his family were among the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry detained in internment camps; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, Mr. Mineta graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Thereafter, Mr. Mineta joined the United States Army and served as an intelligence officer in Korea and Japan; and

WHEREAS, From 1967 to 1971, Mr. Mineta served as a member of the San Jose City Council; and

WHEREAS, From 1971 to 1974, Mr. Mineta served as Mayor of San Jose, thereby becoming the first Asian-American mayor of a major United States city; and

WHEREAS, From 1975 to 1995, Mr. Mineta represented the Silicon Valley area as a Member of the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, During his career in Congress, Mr. Mineta's legislative and policy agenda was wide and varied, including major projects in the areas of economic development, science and technology policy, trade, transportation, the environment, intelligence, the budget, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, As a Member of Congress, Mr. Mineta cofounded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and served as its first chair; and

WHEREAS, As a Member of Congress, Mr. Mineta also chaired the House Public Works and Transportation Committee from 1992 to 1994,

chaired that committee's aviation subcommittee from 1981 to 1988, and chaired its Surface Transportation Subcommittee from 1989 to 1991; and

WHEREAS, As a Member of Congress, Mr. Mineta was also a key author of the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, which shifted decisions concerning highway and mass transit planning to state and local governments and led to major upsurges in mass transit ridership and more environmentally friendly transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, As a Member of Congress, Mr. Mineta was also the driving force behind the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which officially apologized for and redressed the injustices endured by Japanese Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, The George Washington University awarded Mr. Mineta the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Medal for his contributions to the field of civil rights; and

WHEREAS, After leaving Congress, Mr. Mineta chaired the National Civil Aviation Review Commission, which in 1997 issued recommendations on reducing traffic congestion and the aviation accident rate, many of which were adopted by the Clinton administration; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, President Clinton appointed Mr. Mineta United States Secretary of Commerce, making Mr. Mineta the first Asian American to hold a post in the Presidential Cabinet; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed Mr. Mineta United States Secretary of Transportation, making Mr. Mineta the only Democrat to serve in George W. Bush's Cabinet and the first Cabinet member to switch directly from a Democratic to a Republican Cabinet; and

WHEREAS, During Mr. Mineta's first four years as Secretary of Transportation, the United States saw the lowest vehicle fatality rate ever recorded, the highest safety belt usage rate ever recorded, and the lowest rail fatality level ever recorded; and

WHEREAS, As Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Mineta oversaw the safest three-year period in aviation history and was instrumental in persuading every state in the country to set a maximum blood alcohol content level for automobile drivers at 0.08 percent, a level that has proved to be effective in preventing automobile crashes and improving automobile safety; and

WHEREAS, As Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Mineta also oversaw the United States Coast Guard's response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, including expanding the number and mission of Coast Guard Port Security Units and developing the Sea Marshal Program and Maritime Safety and Security Teams; and

WHEREAS, As Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Mineta also guided the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, an agency of more than 60,000 employees charged with protecting Americans as they travel across the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Mr. Mineta received the Panetta Institute's Jefferson-Lincoln Award for his bipartisan leadership in addressing the challenges faced by the United States and was selected by the Council of

Excellence in Government to receive the Elliot L. Richardson Prize for Excellence and Integrity in Public Service; and

WHEREAS, On June 23, 2006, Mr. Mineta announced his resignation as United States Secretary of Transportation, effective July 7, 2006, making him the longest-serving Secretary of Transportation in the history of the Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Mr. Mineta's long career in public service and his contributions to the transportation field, it would be a fitting tribute to designate State Highway Route 85 in Santa Clara County as the Norman Y. Mineta Highway; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates State Highway Route 85, except the segment between Prospect Road and Quito Road, in Santa Clara County as the "Norman Y. Mineta Highway"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering 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 Department of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.