

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 16

Introduced by Assembly Member Hagman

February 12, 2013

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

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

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 39 (Beach Blvd.) in the City of La Mirada 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.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Detective Gerald “Blackie” Wayne Sawyer was
2 born on November 19, 1941, in the City of Los Angeles, California,
3 the eldest of two children, to Warren and Alice Sawyer; and
4 WHEREAS, In 1958, Detective Sawyer graduated from Excelsior
5 High School in the City of Norwalk, California, where he was a
6 very active student and played football; and
7 WHEREAS, In 1961, Sawyer married Rosella McFarland and
8 continued living in the City of Norwalk, California; and
9 WHEREAS, In 1963 Detective Sawyer began attending the Los
10 Angeles Police Academy, where he attained his ultimate desire by

1 becoming a proud member of the Los Angeles Police Department
2 where he served for 10 years; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
38 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
39 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
40 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate

1 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
2 further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
4 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
5 author for appropriate distribution.

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