

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 173

Introduced by Assembly Members Gomez and Ian Calderon

(Principal coauthor: Senator De León)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bigelow, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Campos, Chau, Conway, Cooley, Dickinson, Fong, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gonzalez, Hagman, Holden, Levine, Maienschein, Medina, Mullin, Olsen, Pan, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Ting, and Williams)

(Coauthors: Senators Correa, Hernandez, Lieu, and Liu)

August 11, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 173—Relative to the Joe Gatto Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 173, as introduced, Gomez. Joe Gatto Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of Interstate 10 between Interstate 710 and Interstate 5 in the County of Los Angeles as the Joe Gatto Memorial Highway. The measure also would 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, Joseph “Joe” Gatto was born December 22, 1934,
- 2 in Pueblo, Colorado, served in the United States Army, and became
- 3 the first in his family to attend college, graduating with a bachelor’s
- 4 degree from California State University, Los Angeles; a master’s

1 in education from Pepperdine University; and a master's in design
2 from California State University, Los Angeles; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto began traveling the world in the 1960s,
4 visiting western Europe, Russia, Egypt, and Japan. He married in
5 1968 and subsequently chose to return to California, the place of
6 his education, with his wife and three children; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto settled his family in the Silver Lake
8 neighborhood of Los Angeles in 1978; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto exhibited an extraordinary commitment
10 to hard work and a dedication to his family by working three jobs
11 at times, teaching on Saturdays, and working night shifts at Dodger
12 Stadium; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto, a beloved teacher full of life and with
14 so much talent to share, retired after over 47 years in the classroom
15 as an art and design teacher at the primary, secondary, and
16 postsecondary levels. He helped found the Los Angeles County
17 High School for the Arts, where he served as Dean of the Visual
18 Arts Department. He also taught at other educational institutions,
19 including Granada Hills High School; Pierce College; California
20 State University, Northridge; California State University, Los
21 Angeles; the Otis Art Institute; and the Art Center in Pasadena;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto's work ethic and commitment to his
24 pupils and students were represented by his 100 percent attendance
25 record at school and work since he was in the fourth grade; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto inspired thousands of pupils and students
27 with a unique philosophy on teaching. He was awarded the Bravo
28 Award as the California Arts Teacher of the Year in 1986; was a
29 recipient of the National Distinguished Teacher Award; was
30 honored at the White House in 1988, 1989, and 1998; received the
31 California and Pacific Region Art Educator of the Year award in
32 1990; and received a distinguished teacher award from the City
33 of Los Angeles in 2003; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto exhibited his love for the earth and
35 passion for art through his hand-crafted jewelry line, Wear Art
36 Now. He traveled to exhibit Wear Art Now at shows and in
37 museums, including the Los Angeles Museum of Art, the Craft
38 and Folk Art Museum, and the Museum of Science and Industry;
39 and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto pursued many passions, including
2 cooking dinner for his family; restoring antique furniture;
3 photography and painting; speaking the Italian language; making
4 his own preserves, sausages, and liqueurs; reading; listening to
5 classical bluegrass music; debating politics; writing; growing his
6 own fruits and vegetables; and participating in his Catholic parish,
7 Our Mother of Good Counsel; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto will be remembered nationwide as an
9 artist, writer, teacher, lecturer, influential member of his
10 community, and loving father and grandfather; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Gatto is survived by his son Mike and Mike's
12 wife Danielle; his daughter Nicole and her husband Mark; his
13 daughter Mariann and her husband Eric; his grandchildren Damian,
14 Elliana, Evangelina; his former wife Isolde; his brothers Don and
15 Frank; and his countless cousins, admiring pupils and students,
16 and loving friends; and

17 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to honor Mr. Gatto by designating
18 a portion of Interstate 10 in his memory; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
21 portion of Interstate 10 between Interstate 710 and Interstate 5 in
22 the County of Los Angeles as the Joe Gatto Memorial Highway;
23 and be it further

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

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