

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 18, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 44

Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier
(Coauthor: Senator Hancock)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Skinner)

May 20, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44—Relative to the Joe Eddy McDonald Memorial Overcrossing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 44, as amended, DeSaulnier. Joe Eddy McDonald Memorial Overcrossing.

This measure would designate the Willow Avenue Overcrossing over State Highway Route 4 in Contra Costa County as the Joe Eddy McDonald Memorial Overcrossing. 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, Joe Eddy McDonald was born March 6, 1945, in
- 2 Lewisville, Arkansas, to the late Jesse and Geraldine McDonald;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, The McDonald Family moved to Richmond,
- 5 California, in 1950; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald received his primary education
- 7 in the West Contra Costa Unified School District and graduated
- 8 from Richmond Union High School; and

1 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald enlisted in the United States
2 Navy for a two-year tour of duty; and

3 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald earned an associate of arts
4 degree in business administration from Contra Costa College and
5 completed professional development courses offered by Duke and
6 Harvard Universities; and

7 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald married his high school
8 sweetheart, Mary Ann Rollins, on October 9, 1966, and had two
9 beautiful daughters, Kimaree and Meiko; and

10 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald was a passionate father,
11 committed to his family, which led to his future commitment as a
12 humble servant to his community; and

13 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald began working for the United
14 States Postal Service in 1966 as a letter carrier; and

15 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald worked his way through the
16 ranks of *the United States Postal Service*, eventually becoming
17 postmaster of the Cities of Rodeo and Hercules and serving in that
18 capacity for 19 years until his retirement in 2002; and

19 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald lost his daughter Kimaree
20 McDonald and niece Tiffane Spencer in a tragic car accident in
21 October 1994; and

22 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald spearheaded a campaign to
23 widen and divide the two-lane stretch of State Highway Route 4
24 on the west side of the County of Contra Costa to keep others from
25 suffering the same tragic fate; and

26 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy and Mary Ann McDonald collected over
27 10,000 signatures on a petition to state lawmakers, made
28 presentations to government agencies, and organized a community
29 walk to the Hercules City Council; and

30 WHEREAS, The McDonald's advocacy led to an \$86 million
31 State Highway Route 4 widening project, which added two lanes;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald served as president of the
34 Rodeo and Hercules Rotary Club; and

35 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald served as Area II Director of
36 Chapter IV of the National Association of Postmasters of the
37 United States; and

38 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald served as master of Monarch
39 Lodge No. 73 for the State of California; and

1 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald was a founding member of
2 the Black America’s Political Action Committee, a member of the
3 Black American Cultural Association, and a charter member of
4 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
5 Hercules chapter; and

6 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald served on the Library Ad Hoc
7 Fundraising Committee and the City of Hercules Planning
8 Commission from December 2002 to November 2006, serving as
9 chairman the last two and one-half years; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2006, Joe Eddy McDonald successfully
11 campaigned to serve on the Hercules City Council, serving as vice
12 mayor in 2008 and as mayor in 2009; and

13 WHEREAS, During Joe Eddy McDonald’s tenure on the
14 Hercules City Council, he was a dedicated and effective member
15 of many regional committees, including the Pinole/Hercules
16 Wastewater Management JPA, the West Contra Costa Integrated
17 Waste Management Authority JPA, the Contra Costa Mayors
18 Conference, and the Association of Bay Area Governments
19 Executive Board; and

20 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald was responsible for the
21 approved agreement with the West Contra Costa Unified School
22 District to retain the music program in Hercules elementary schools
23 and with Contra Costa College to provide classes in the
24 redevelopment project area; and

25 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald ~~is commended~~ *deserves*
26 *commendation* for his years of service to the residents of Hercules;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald and his family were charter
29 members of the True Fellowship Baptist Church, where he served
30 as chairman of the Trustee Ministry under the leadership of
31 Reverend Robert K. Gordon; and

32 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald and his family later became
33 members at Valley Bible Church under the pastorage of Dr. Phillip
34 Howard; and

35 WHEREAS, On Saturday, June 9, 2012, Joe Eddy McDonald’s
36 earthly journey was complete; and

37 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald led a life of extraordinary
38 courage and strength; and

39 WHEREAS, Joe Eddy McDonald leaves his legacy of love to
40 his wife, Mary Ann McDonald, daughter Meiko McDonald,

1 granddaughter Kimaree McDonald Solomon, all of Hercules, four
2 brothers: John Wesley, Charles Edward (Aquila), Freddie Ray
3 (Evelyn), and Steven Paul McDonald (Mpheza), one sister, Yvonne
4 Marie McDonald, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other
5 relatives, and dear friends; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature honors the life,
8 achievements, and distinguished career of Joe Eddy McDonald
9 and recognizes Joe Eddy McDonald's honorable and faithful
10 service to the people of Contra Costa County and the City of
11 Hercules, and hereby designates the Willow Avenue Overcrossing
12 over State Highway Route 4 in Contra Costa County as the Joe
13 Eddy McDonald Memorial Overcrossing; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
15 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
16 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
17 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
18 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
19 further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
22 for appropriate distribution.