

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 1**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Levine**

December 1, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 1—Relative to the Robin Williams Tunnel.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 1, as introduced, Levine. Robin Williams Tunnel.

This measure would designate the tunnel on State Highway Routes 1 and 101 at postmile .89 in the County of Marin as the Robin Williams Tunnel. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for 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, Robin McLaurin Williams was born in Chicago,  
2 Illinois, on July 21, 1951, to his mother Laurie McLaurin and father  
3 Robert Fitzgerald Williams. At 16 years of age Robin Williams  
4 moved with his family to Tiburon, California; and  
5       WHEREAS, Robin Williams attended Redwood High School  
6 in Larkspur, California, and studied theater at the College of Marin  
7 in Kentfield, California. Robin Williams received a full scholarship  
8 to the Juilliard School in New York City where he pursued his gift  
9 as an actor and comedian; and  
10       WHEREAS, Robin Williams began his career as a comedian  
11 doing stand-up comedy shows in the San Francisco Bay area and

1 continued his work in Los Angeles where he developed his  
2 improvisational style as an actor and a stand-up comedian; and  
3 WHEREAS, Robin Williams then appeared on several television  
4 programs and starred in “Mork and Mindy” in the late 1970s to  
5 early 1980s. Many successful film roles followed, including his  
6 role as radio disc jockey Adrian Cronauer in “Good Morning,  
7 Vietnam” in 1987, and teacher John Keating in “Dead Poets  
8 Society” in 1989. Both roles earned him lead actor Academy  
9 Award recognition; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1997, Robin Williams was voted funniest man  
11 alive by Entertainment. The next year, in 1998, Entertainment  
12 Weekly listed him as one of the 25 Best Actors of all time. In 2003,  
13 he won the Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2005, Robin Williams received the Cecil B.  
15 DeMille Award at the Golden Globe Awards. He dedicated that  
16 lifetime achievement award to the memory of his good friend,  
17 fellow actor, and roommate at Juilliard, Christopher Reeve; and

18 WHEREAS, Along with his talent to make people laugh, Robin  
19 Williams raised funds for various causes. Robin Williams’ charity  
20 work included health care, human rights, education, environmental  
21 protection, the arts, and much more. In 2010, he gave 100 percent  
22 of the proceeds from his shows in New Zealand to victims of the  
23 devastating earthquake in Christchurch; and

24 WHEREAS, Robin Williams supported the following  
25 foundations and their work: Aid Still Required, American  
26 Foundation for AIDS Research, Amnesty International, Andre  
27 Agassi Foundation for Education, Augie’s Quest, Bob Woodruff  
28 Foundation, Celebrity Fight Night Foundation, Christopher &  
29 Dana Reeve Foundation, Comic Relief, David Foster Foundation,  
30 Doctors Without Borders, Dogs Deserve Better, Dream Foundation,  
31 Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, International Medical  
32 Corps, Keep Memory Alive, LIVESTRONG, Love Our Children  
33 USA, Luke Neuhedel Foundation, Muhammad Ali Parkinson  
34 Center, MusiCares, Prince’s Rainforests Project, Prince’s Trust,  
35 Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, Smile Train, St. Jude Children’s  
36 Research Hospital, and UNICEF; and

37 WHEREAS, One of Robin Williams’ strongest affiliations with  
38 philanthropy was working with Comic Relief, a nonprofit  
39 organization with a mission to raise money for housing, health

1 care, and the homeless. Robin Williams would help by hosting  
2 events and shows and performing to help raise funds; and

3 WHEREAS, Robin Williams also was an active volunteer  
4 through the United Service Organizations where he went on at  
5 total of six tours and visited about 89,000 troops in 12 countries,  
6 including Iraq and Afghanistan. Regardless of the challenging  
7 circumstances, comedian Robin Williams made troops in conflict  
8 zones smile and laugh. Robin Williams also listened to their  
9 personal experiences; and

10 WHEREAS, He also funded the Robin Williams Scholarship  
11 at his alma mater, the Juilliard School in New York City. Each  
12 year Robin Williams provided a scholarship to cover the tuition  
13 cost for one theater student; and

14 WHEREAS, Robin Williams was a local friend to the North  
15 Bay community of the San Francisco Bay area. He would often  
16 drop in unannounced at comedy nights at the 142 Throckmorton  
17 Theatre in Mill Valley. There he would encourage young, budding  
18 comedians. He did so with kindness and humility and many  
19 comedians aspired to perform with the same level of wit and insight  
20 as Robin Williams; and

21 WHEREAS, Robin Williams died on August 11, 2014, in his  
22 home in Paradise Cay, Tiburon, California, as a result of suicide.  
23 Though he bravely battled addiction and mental illness, his death  
24 was a consequence of those diseases; and

25 WHEREAS, Robin Williams will be remembered for making  
26 us laugh and for his generosity to others. It is altogether fitting to  
27 officially name what is commonly known as the Waldo Tunnel  
28 after Robin Williams; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
31 tunnel on State Highway Routes 1 and 101, located at postmile  
32 .89 in the County of Marin, as the Robin Williams Tunnel; and be  
33 it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
35 to determine the cost of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent  
36 with the signing requirements for the state highway system,  
37 showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations  
38 from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and  
39 be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
- 3 author for appropriate distribution.

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