

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 181

Introduced by Assembly Member Gatto

May 5, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 181—Relative to the Vin Scully Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 181, as introduced, Gatto. Vin Scully Highway

This measure would designate a specified portion of Interstate 5 in the County of Los Angeles as the Vin Scully 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 the cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Vincent Edward “Vin” Scully, born in the Bronx
2 on November 29, 1927, served in the United States Navy and
3 attended Fordham University where he began his career as a student
4 broadcaster and journalist. While at Fordham, Vin was assistant
5 sports editor for The Fordham Ram, played center field for the
6 Fordham Rams baseball team, called radio broadcasts for Rams
7 baseball, football, and basketball games, and even sang in a
8 barbershop quartet. He also helped found Fordham’s FM radio
9 station WFUV, which now presents a Vin Scully Lifetime
10 Achievement Award each year; and
11 WHEREAS, Vin began his broadcasting career with the
12 Brooklyn Dodgers in 1950, moving to Los Angeles with the club

1 in 1958, and is considered by many to be the greatest broadcaster
2 in history with a smooth voice baseball fans everywhere recognize
3 instantly; and

4 WHEREAS, For many years, Vin was heard nationally calling
5 the Major League Baseball All-Star Game and World Series games
6 for CBS Radio and NBC television, National Football League
7 games on CBS television, and also some tennis and golf; and

8 WHEREAS, Vin is one of the only sports broadcasters to work
9 without a partner. He says that broadcasting solo allows him to
10 have a conversation with the listener rather than a broadcasting
11 partner, allowing a rapport with the listener, that could not
12 otherwise occur. When asked about why Vin goes solo, fellow
13 broadcaster Charley Steiner once said “Poets don’t need straight
14 men.”; and

15 WHEREAS, Vin holds the record for most World Series as a
16 broadcaster with 28 series and the longest tenure with one club,
17 now in his 67th season. He has been behind the microphone for
18 20 no-hitters and three perfect games. The honors bestowed upon
19 Vin by the Dodgers include having him throw out the ceremonial
20 first pitch and making a bobblehead doll in his likeness; and

21 WHEREAS, Vin has been named California Sportscaster of the
22 Year 31 times, won the Ford Frick Award in 1982, was awarded
23 an Emmy for Lifetime Achievement in 1995, was named
24 Broadcaster of the Century in 2000 by The American Sportscasters
25 Association, was named the greatest broadcaster of all time in
26 historian Curt Smith’s 2005 book Voices of Summer, was the
27 Grand Marshal of the 2014 Tournament of Roses Parade in
28 Pasadena, and was the recipient of the Commissioner’s Historic
29 Achievement Award, the second nonplayer to receive the
30 prestigious distinction after Jackie Robinson’s widow, Rachel. In
31 2016, in honor of his final season behind the microphone, the Los
32 Angeles city council renamed Elysian Park Avenue, the street on
33 which Dodger Stadium is located, “Vin Scully Avenue,” making
34 the ballpark’s address 100 Vin Scully Avenue; and

35 WHEREAS, Vin joined Hall of Fame announcer Red Barber
36 and Connie Desmond as part of the Brooklyn Dodgers’ broadcast
37 team in 1950, just one year after graduating from Fordham
38 University. And in 1982, 32 years after he called his first Dodgers
39 game, he was inducted into the Broadcaster’s wing of the National
40 Baseball Hall of Fame; and

1 WHEREAS, Vin, whose vivid yet simple descriptions of
2 baseball games have thrilled fans since 1950, has been behind the
3 mic not just calling the play-by-play, but painting verbal pictures,
4 making each game truly captivating regardless of the score or the
5 standings of the teams. He has shared with us his profound gifts
6 that have put him at the top of his profession: an unforgettable and
7 beautiful voice, a rich imagination giving him the perfect
8 description to every moment of a broadcast, a contagious
9 enthusiasm for the game of baseball regardless of which teams are
10 playing, and an ability to talk with listeners, wherever they may
11 be, as if he is an old friend; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
14 portion of Interstate 5 between State Route 134 and State Route
15 110 in the County of Los Angeles as the Vin Scully Highway; and
16 be it further

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

23 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
24 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
25 for appropriate distribution.