
**Introduced by Senator Correa
(Coauthor: Senator Harman)**

March 15, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 89—Relative to the Nguyen Ngoc Phu Human Rights Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 89, as introduced, Correa. Nguyen Ngoc Phu Human Rights Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 22 in the County of Orange as the Nguyen Ngoc Phu Human Rights Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen was a young student, a
2 community leader, and an ardent voice for freedom, human rights,
3 and democracy, particularly in Vietnam; and
4 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen was born in Vietnam on
5 November 27, 1983, and immediately faced challenging conditions.
6 His father served honorably as a South Vietnamese military police
7 officer and suffered at the hands of a communist government as a
8 prisoner in a concentration camp for seven years. His mother
9 struggled every day to support her family in postwar Vietnam; and
10 WHEREAS, In 1991, Phu, his brother, Nguyen Ngoc Phong,
11 his sister, Nguyen Kim Phung, and his parents, Nguyen Ngoc Luu
12 and Vo Kim Cuc, seized the opportunity to make a new life for

1 themselves when the United States welcomed Vietnamese veterans
2 who fought alongside American forces in South Vietnam through
3 the Orderly Departure Program; and

4 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen and his family settled in Santa
5 Ana, California, and became a part of the growing Orange County
6 Vietnamese American community; and

7 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen excelled academically at
8 Thomas Paine Elementary School, McGarvin Intermediate School,
9 and Valley High School. Phu Ngoc Nguyen thereafter attended
10 and graduated Summa Cum Laude from California State
11 University, Fullerton, and was selected as a McNair Scholar. He
12 was later accepted into the University of California, Los Angeles,
13 preparatory program for medical students; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to his educational pursuits, Phu Ngoc
15 Nguyen was an active member and a scout leader in the Hue Quang
16 Buddhist Youth Group and a dedicated member of the Doan Thanh
17 Nien Phan Boi Chau youth group; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2001, Phu Ngoc Nguyen returned to visit
19 Vietnam and witnessed the abject poverty that challenged the daily
20 lives of many Vietnamese people; and

21 WHEREAS, Drawing strength from that experience, Phu Ngoc
22 Nguyen recommitted himself to helping the Vietnamese American
23 community by becoming involved in and leading student
24 organizations to honor the Vietnamese culture and to celebrate,
25 defend, and press for freedom both here and in Vietnam; and

26 WHEREAS, In his role as a community activist, Phu Ngoc
27 Nguyen served as vice president of the Union of Vietnamese
28 Students Association of Southern California and executive board
29 member of the Vietnamese Student Union at the California State
30 University; and

31 WHEREAS, In 2002, Phu Ngoc Nguyen organized a two-day
32 hunger strike to protest human rights and religious freedom
33 violations in Vietnam. In 2003, Phu Ngoc Nguyen served as a lead
34 organizer of the International Vietnamese Youth Conference, which
35 highlighted human rights, social justice, and community service;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen served the greater Orange
38 County community as chair of the Orange County Human Rights
39 Night on International Human Rights Day in 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, As chair of the 2005 Tet Festival in Garden Grove,
2 California, Phu Ngoc Nguyen mobilized over 700 students and 50
3 organizations to participate in an event that drew tens of thousands
4 of people; and

5 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen served as a citizen advisor to
6 the Mayor of Westminster, California, from 2004 to 2005 and
7 helped bridge communities through cultural understanding and
8 community service; and

9 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen was instrumental in organizing
10 an annual commemoration event at the Vietnam War Memorial
11 in the City of Westminster to honor United States and South
12 Vietnamese veterans and the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for
13 freedom during the Vietnam War; and

14 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen reached out to and involved
15 young Vietnamese Americans by hosting a weekly radio program
16 entitled “Tieng Noi Sing Vien” on Sai Gon Radio Hai Ngoai; and

17 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen pressed for the passage of a
18 resolution in Orange County recognizing the yellow flag with three
19 red stripes as the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag in the
20 county and the county passed this resolution on June 7, 2005, the
21 day Phu Ngoc Nguyen passed away; and

22 WHEREAS, Hundreds of people have been inspired by Phu
23 Ngoc Nguyen’s short but meaningful life. Local organizations,
24 including the Union of Vietnamese Students Association, California
25 State University, Fullerton, Viet Bao Daily News, and the
26 Vietnamese Community of Southern California have named
27 scholarships and programs in the memory of Phu Ngoc Nguyen;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Phu Ngoc Nguyen’s life serves as an example of
30 how one young person can have a positive impact on those around
31 him and his community; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
34 eastbound and westbound portions of State Highway Route 22
35 between State Highway Route 39 and Bolsa Chica Road in the
36 County of Orange as the Nguyen Ngoc Phu Human Rights
37 Memorial Highway; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
39 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
40 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this

- 1 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
- 2 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
- 3 further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 5 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
- 6 author for appropriate distribution.