

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 11**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing James C. Cummings, Jr., and urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to name I-465 from mile marker 44.5 to mile marker 45.5 the "James C. Cummings, Jr., Memorial Mile".

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January 13, 2022, read first time and referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation.

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2 C. Cummings, Jr., and urging the Indiana Department of  
3 Transportation to name I-465 from mile marker 44.5 to mile  
4 marker 45.5 the "James C. Cummings, Jr., Memorial Mile".

5           *Whereas, James C. Cummings, Jr. -- celebrated civic*  
6 *leader, political strategist, and business executive -- was one of*  
7 *Indiana's most influential leaders of the 20th century;*

8           *Whereas, Mr. Cummings was born on September 22, 1929,*  
9 *on the west side of Indianapolis in the historic Fayette District;*

10           *Whereas, A lifelong resident of Indianapolis, Mr.*  
11 *Cummings took photos and wrote stories for the Indianapolis*  
12 *Recorder as a teenager and earned a bachelor of arts degree in*  
13 *business from Indiana Central University, which was renamed*  
14 *the University of Indianapolis;*

15           *Whereas, Following graduation from college, Mr.*  
16 *Cummings served as a sergeant in the Korean War, after which*  
17 *he returned to Indianapolis to work as a journalist for the*  
18 *Indianapolis Recorder and later established Cummings Real*  
19 *Estate, which specialized in buying and selling residential and*  
20 *commercial properties throughout Indianapolis;*

21           *Whereas, Mr. Cummings was also a prominent leader in*  
22 *the Republican Party on both the state and national stage,*  
23 *where he helped found the National Black Republican Council*  
24 *and assisted in opening chapters nationwide, served as a*  
25 *director within the Republican National Committee, and was*



1 *appointed deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of*  
 2 *Housing and Urban Development in 1985 under President*  
 3 *Reagan;*

4 *Whereas, Of all his accomplishments, perhaps his most*  
 5 *enduring and recognized achievement is founding Indiana*  
 6 *Black Expo;*

7 *Whereas, Established in 1970 with the first exhibition held*  
 8 *in 1971, the Expo has grown to become the largest African*  
 9 *American event in the nation;*

10 *Whereas, The event, which draws nearly 300,000 visitors*  
 11 *and celebrities to downtown Indianapolis each year, spans ten*  
 12 *days and includes concerts, a job fair, a business convention,*  
 13 *and other gatherings; and*

14 *Whereas, Recognizing the work of Mr. Cummings by*  
 15 *renaming a roadway near Black Expo Inc. and his beloved east*  
 16 *side neighborhood is the appropriate way to honor his role in*  
 17 *shaping Indiana's cultural life, economic development, and*  
 18 *political landscape: Therefore,*

19 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*  
 20 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives*  
 21 *concurring:*

22 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly  
 23 memorializes James C. Cummings, Jr., and urges the Indiana  
 24 Department of Transportation to name I-465 from mile marker  
 25 44.5 to mile marker 45.5 the "James C. Cummings, Jr.,  
 26 Memorial Mile".

27 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed  
 28 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the children of James C.  
 29 Cummings, Jr., and the Commissioner of the Indiana  
 30 Department of Transportation.

