

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename U.S. 20 in Lake County for the late Mayor Rudolph "Rudy" Clay.

ROGERS

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department
2 of Transportation to rename U.S. 20 in Lake County for the
3 late Mayor Rudolph "Rudy" Clay.

4 *Whereas, Rudolph "Rudy" Clay dutifully served the people*
5 *of Gary and Lake County in a variety of capacities throughout*
6 *four decades of public life;*

7 *Whereas, Rudy was born on July 16, 1936 in Alabama, and*
8 *moved to Indiana at a very young age;*

9 *Whereas, Rudy is a graduate of Roosevelt High School and*
10 *attended Indiana University;*

11 *Whereas, Prior to politics, Rudy served two years in the*
12 *United States Army, and worked as an insurance agent in*
13 *Midtown, Indiana;*

14 *Whereas, Rudy marched with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*
15 *and Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. at Gage Park in Chicago during the*
16 *1960s;*

17 *Whereas, Rudy was elected to the Indiana State Senate in*



1 *1972 to represent Indiana's 3rd District. He was the only*
2 *African-American Senator in the General Assembly at the time;*

3 *Whereas, As a Senator, Rudy worked towards better*
4 *treatment of prison inmates, a victims' compensation fund, a*
5 *tenants' bill of rights, making Martin Luther King Jr. a state*
6 *holiday, closing the Gary city dump, and fought against*
7 *discriminatory hiring practices;*

8 *Whereas, Rudy was called on by then-Gov. Otis Bowen to*
9 *negotiate a hostage situation in 1973 at the Indiana State*
10 *Prison in Michigan City. The rioting inmates ended the 35-hour*
11 *siege after they spoke with Clay;*

12 *Whereas, Following the State Senate, Rudy was elected to*
13 *the Lake County Council, 2nd District, and served there from*
14 *1978 to 1984;*

15 *Whereas, Rudy was elected Lake County Recorder in 1984;*

16 *Whereas, In 1986, Rudy was shot at outside of his home by*
17 *unidentified assailants. No charges were ever filed;*

18 *Whereas, The State Democratic Central Committee named*
19 *Rudy the Lake County Party Chairman, a position in which he*
20 *served from 2005 to 2009. Clay was the first African-American*
21 *head of the Lake County Democratic Party;*

22 *Whereas, Following the resignation of Mayor Scott King,*
23 *Rudy became Mayor in 2006. He would go on to win a popular*
24 *election for mayor in 2007;*

25 *Whereas, Rudy served as Mayor of Gary, Indiana from*
26 *2006 through 2011. He decided not to seek reelection due to*
27 *health concerns;*

28 *Whereas, Rudy passed away on June 4, 2013 at the age of*
29 *77;*



1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
2 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

3 SECTION 1. The Indiana State Senate recognizes Rudolph "Rudy"
4 Clay for his many accomplishments and steadfast dedication to the
5 people of Gary, Lake County, and the State of Indiana by urging the
6 Indiana Department of Transportation to rename U.S. 20 in Lake
7 County in his honor.

8 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
9 transmit copies of this resolution to the Indiana Department of
10 Transportation and Rudy's family.

