

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



Introduced

Second Regular Session 118th General Assembly (2014)

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;*



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

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

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

