

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 55

DIGEST OF RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename the East End Bridge across the Ohio River as the "Lewis and Clark Bridge".

Stemler, Clere, Goodin, Frye R, Arnold L, Bacon, Lyness, McNamara, Rhoads, Riecken, Sullivan

February 29, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation. March 1, 2016, reported — Do Pass.



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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename the East End Bridge across the Ohio River as the "Lewis and Clark Bridge".

Whereas, Lewis and Clark were one of the greatest teams of explorers in the world;

Whereas, Lewis and Clark were co-captains of America's most famous expedition;

Whereas, Captain Meriwether Lewis came down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, Ohio, and met William Clark in October 1803 at the Falls of the Ohio;

Whereas, Captain Lewis hired expert pilots to navigate through The Falls of the Ohio, a series of long and dangerous rapids over limestone ledges in the Ohio River between Kentucky and Indiana;

Whereas, William Clark was living with his brother, General George Rogers Clark, founder of Louisville, Kentucky, in Clarksville, Indiana, on the north bank of the Ohio River in 1803;

Whereas, Lewis and Clark recruited, enlisted, and trained the leadership of the expedition known as the "Nine Young Men from Kentucky" at the Falls of the Ohio;

Whereas, The expedition members were sworn in at the home site of General George Rogers Clark;



Whereas, Over one third of the permanent members of the Corps of Discovery were from the Falls of the Ohio area; they were Joseph and Reuben Field, Charles Floyd, John Shields, Nathaniel Pryor, George Shannon, George Gibson, William Bratton, and John Colter;

Whereas, Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery departed from the Falls of the Ohio at Mill Creek on the Ohio River to begin their expedition to the Pacific on October 26, 1803;

Whereas, Sergeant Charles Floyd, born in Kentucky but living in Indiana at the time he was recruited, was the only member of the expedition to die while on the expedition, dying on August 20, 1804;

Whereas, William Clark's slave, York, was the first African-American to cross the United States from coast to coast;

Whereas, On November 5, 1806, after three years, Lewis and Clark returned to Indiana and Kentucky from the Pacific as acclaimed national heroes;

Whereas, On November 8, 1806, upon returning from their historic expedition to the Pacific, Lewis and Clark visited Locust Grove, located a short distance south of the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky, the only verified remaining structure west of the Appalachian Mountains known as a stopping point for Lewis and Clark;

Whereas, Lewis and Clark later departed together from the Falls of the Ohio area to return to Washington and report to President Thomas Jefferson, but went by different routes;

Whereas, Colonel Meriwether Lewis Clark, Jr., Clark's grandson, was the founder of the Kentucky Derby;

Whereas, The National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, the organization awarding Signature Events to 15 significant sites of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was made aware of this little known fact and of the significance of Captain William Clark's descendants to the Kentucky



Derby, a fact that played a large part in gaining national attention of the members of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial to the Falls of the Ohio area; and

Whereas, The Falls of the Ohio was thus awarded the 2nd Signature Event of the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration held October 14-26 in Clarksville, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky, after 200 years of its history being ignored or almost forgotten: Therefore,

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

SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename the East End Bridge across the Ohio River as the "Lewis and Clark Bridge".

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation.



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COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Roads and Transportation, to which was referred House Concurrent Resolution 55, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said resolution do pass.

(Reference is to HCR 55 as printed February 29, 2016.)

SOLIDAY

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0

