

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

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

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**ROGERS**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department  
2 of Transportation to rename U.S. 20 in Lake County for the late Mayor  
3 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, 1935 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*  
18 *1972 to represent Indiana's 3rd District. He was the only*  
19 *African-American Senator in the General Assembly at the time;*

20           *Whereas, As a Senator, Rudy worked towards better*  
21 *treatment of prison inmates, a victims' compensation fund, a*



1 *tenants' bill of rights, making Martin Luther King Jr. a state*  
 2 *holiday, closing the Gary city dump, and fought against*  
 3 *discriminatory hiring practices;*

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

8 *Whereas, Following the State Senate, Rudy was elected to*  
 9 *the Lake County Council, 2nd District, and served there from*  
 10 *1978 to 1984;*

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

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

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

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

21 *Whereas, Rudy served as Mayor of Gary, Indiana from*  
 22 *2006 through 2011. He decided not to seek reelection due to*  
 23 *health concerns;*

24 *Whereas, Rudy passed away on June 4, 2013 at the age of*  
 25 *77;*

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

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



1 County in his honor.

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

