



Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana department of transportation to name the U. S. Highway 231 South bridges over the Wabash River in honor of former Governor Roger D. Branigin.

Klinker

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana department of transportation to name the U. S. Highway 231 South bridges over the Wabash River in honor of former Governor Roger D. Branigin.

Whereas, Roger D. Branigin of Lafayette, Indiana, served as governor of Indiana from 1965 through 1968, culminating a colorful and successful career of public service to his community, the state, and the nation;

Whereas, Roger Branigin, who was noted for his quick mind, intelligence, and ready wit, was known throughout the state as a successful lawyer, community and business leader, popular after-dinner speaker, and exceptional student of Indiana history;

Whereas, Roger Douglas Branigin was born July 26, 1902, in Franklin, Indiana, and died November 19, 1975;

Whereas, Roger Branigin was the son of a distinguished lawyer and historian and followed in the family tradition of practicing law;

Whereas, After graduating from Franklin College and Harvard University School of Law, he practiced law for three years in Franklin, Indiana, during which time he served as deputy prosecuting attorney. In 1930, he joined the legal department of the Federal Land Bank and Farm Credit Administration in the Louisville regional office where he rose to the position of general counsel, forming friendships and professional relationships with attorneys and government, business, and community leaders across Indiana;



Whereas, In 1938, Roger Branigin joined Allison E. Stuart in the Stuart Law Firm in Lafayette, one of the state's oldest and most prestigious firms;

Whereas, Soon after the United States entered World War II, Roger Branigin volunteered for military service and was commissioned in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the Army, where he became chief of the legal division of the Transportation Corps, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel;

Whereas, After returning from the war, Roger Branigin resumed his law practice in Lafayette, Indiana;

Whereas, Always active in community affairs, Roger Branigin served as president of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, president of Harrison Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and trustee of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association;

Whereas, Roger Branigin's interest and achievements in his chosen profession were reflected in his activities in the American Bar Association and his election as president of the Tippecanoe County Bar Association, president of the Indiana State Bar Association, president of the American Law Institute, and Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers;

Whereas, A major interest in his life was education and, both publicly and privately, his quiet philanthropy was a continuing source of support for individual students and for schools and institutions of higher learning;

Whereas, Roger Branigin was a member of the board of trustees of Purdue University and a trustee and chairman of the board of Franklin College. One of his most cherished acts as governor was the launching of the Hoosier Scholarship Program to help needy and deserving young men and women attend college;

Whereas, A student of Indiana history and Hoosier folklore, Roger Branigin organized the David Demaree



Banta Collection, which contains over 1,000 items and includes manuscripts, periodicals, and books written by Hoosiers. The collection, which he donated to Franklin College, also contains information about the geography, government, and industry of Indiana;

Whereas, In 1951, Roger Branigin was elected to the Indiana Academy, an honor reserved for those outstanding in public service, public education, arts, sciences, literature, and general culture;

Whereas, Roger Branigin had a lifelong interest in politics;

Whereas, Roger Branigin served as chairman of the Democratic state convention in 1948;

Whereas, Following an unsuccessful run for governor in 1956, Roger Branigin was elected governor in 1964 by a record-breaking plurality;

Whereas, Highlights of the Branigin administration include the elimination of the poll tax and personal property tax on household goods and the repeal of the "right-to-work" law, the creation of the department of natural resources, and the construction of the Port of Indiana at Burns Ditch on Lake Michigan;

Whereas, In addition to his service to the state of Indiana as governor, Roger Branigin also served as a trustee of the Lilly Endowment and was a board member of the Indiana Historical Society, and, in his later years, served as chairman of the Indiana American Revolution Bicentennial Commission;

Whereas, Roger Branigin agreed to enter the 1968 Indiana presidential primary as a stand-in for President Lyndon B. Johnson, but when Johnson decided not to run, he stayed in the race as a favorite son, losing to Robert F. Kennedy but gathering more votes than Senator Eugene McCarthy;

Whereas, Roger Branigin received honorary degrees from



a number of colleges and universities, including Indiana University, Butler University, and Franklin College. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Franklin and of many civic organizations; and

Whereas, Governor Roger Branigin was very interested in the history of our great state. It is, therefore, appropriate that we honor this great man with a permanent remembrance to the contributions he made to the state of Indiana: Therefore,

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

1 SECTION 1. That in recognition of the many achievements of Roger
2 D. Branigin and his outstanding service to the nation, to the state of
3 Indiana, and to the greater Lafayette community, the Indiana General
4 Assembly urges the Indiana Department of Transportation to designate
5 the U.S. Highway 231 South bridges over the Wabash River in honor
6 of the former Indiana governor.

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

