



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Turner

A RESOLUTION urging the Indiana department of transportation to rename the bridge on State Road 22 and U.S. Highway 35 crossing the Mississinewa River in honor of Robert Ray, former mayor of Gas City, Indiana.

Whereas, Mayor Robert Ray, known as the Dean of Mayors, was a Republican mayor who served over 20 years in a Democratic town;

Whereas, His sixth term, however, was cut short when he died of lung cancer on February 6, 1964;

Whereas, Mayor Ray was elected to his first term in office in 1939 and was mayor when the first street lights were installed in Gas City;

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Whereas, Always active in local Republican politics, Mayor Ray was a delegate to the Republican National Convention and helped nominate Dwight D. Eisenhower for president;

Whereas, Mayor Ray, who was born on March 27, 1902, in Ashland, Kentucky, married Marguerite Hillman on June 9, 1923, and together they had one son, Anthony;

Whereas, Before he was active in politics, Robert and Marguerite operated a grocery store in Gas City, Ray's Stop and Shop, which they owned and operated until 1948;

Whereas, Together they also owned Ray's Real Estate and Insurance;

Whereas, Mayor Ray and Marguerite also operated the Avalon Hotel, a downtown apartment building;

Whereas, The grocery store and real estate business did more than produce a living for Marguerite and Robert. It gave them a way to help others;

Whereas, The Rays were known as givers throughout their lives, always willing to help Gas City citizens;

Whereas, The Rays never turned away anyone with children. Robert would call them "our future citizens";

Whereas, Mayor Ray was an active community member as well as the mayor of Gas City; he was a member of the Gas City Kiwanis Club, the Gas City Baptist Church, and the Masonic Lodge;

Whereas, When the Indiana Department of Transportation was considering rerouting State Road 22, Mayor Ray worked tirelessly to make sure that the newly constructed road and bridge over the Mississinewa River was routed through the main business district of Gas City; and

Whereas, It is fitting that the bridge on State Road 22 and U.S. Highway 35 crossing the Mississinewa River be named in



*honor of Robert Ray, former mayor of Gas City, Indiana, and
the proper signage erected: Therefore,*

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

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the Indiana
2 department of transportation to rename the bridge on State Road 22 and
3 U.S. Highway 35 crossing the Mississinewa River in honor of Robert
4 Ray, former mayor of Gas City, Indiana.
5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
6 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to his widow,
7 Marguerite; his son, Anthony; his grandchildren, Teresa Ray, Patricia
8 Ray McArthur, Robert Ray, Bill Ray, Thomas Ray, and James Ray; the
9 mayor of Gas City; the members of the Gas City city council; and to the
10 commissioner of the Indiana department of transportation.

