

Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Stilwell, Hinkle, Becker, Oxley

A RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename that part of State Road 162 in Spencer County from U.S. Highway 231 in Gentryville, Indiana, to Interstate Highway 64 in honor of Mr. William A. Koch.

Whereas, William Albert Koch died September 17, 2001, after a lifetime of service to his state and community through a myriad of community projects, business ventures, and volunteer work that benefited Hoosiers in Spencer County and Indiana;

Whereas, William A. Koch was born in Evansville, Indiana, in 1915 to Louis J. and Clarice A. Koch;

Whereas, William A. Koch was a 1932 graduate of Reitz High School, Evansville, Indiana, a 1937 graduate of Purdue

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University, West Lafayette, Indiana, and a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II;

Whereas, William A. Koch was instrumental in the planning, development, and success of Holiday World, Splashin' Safari, and the town of Santa Claus, Indiana;

Whereas, With the guidance of William A. Koch, Holiday World, Splashin' Safari, and the town of Santa Claus went from being the first theme park and a quaint children's park into a major attraction that hosts more than 500,000 visitors each year, and the developments transformed a hamlet into a world renowned town called Santa Claus where the real Santa Claus lives;

Whereas, William A. Koch built Christmas Lake Village, a gated community with a town hall, a medical center, a bank, and numerous other attractions, that grew from 37 residents to nearly 3,000;

Whereas, William A. Koch was always humble about his accomplishments, including being present when President John Kennedy signed legislation that created the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Lincoln City, Indiana, persuading the federal government to reroute Interstate Highway 64 so it would run through extreme southern Indiana, and the expansion of U.S. Highway 231 through Spencer County;

Whereas, William A. Koch played a major role in the development of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial;

Whereas, William A. Koch was involved in the early planning through the final design phase of ensuring that U.S. Highway 231 in Spencer County became a reality;

Whereas, Through his initiatives with the U.S. 231 Coalition, William A. Koch was instrumental in the establishment of a new four lane U.S. Highway 231 (Abraham Lincoln Parkway) in Spencer County, which is now entering the construction phase;

Whereas, The story of William A. Koch includes the tale of



the world's first theme park in Santa Claus, Indiana, a small park that evolved into a nationally recognized theme park where children came to sit on Santa's knee;

Whereas, Guests to this theme park have included Ronald Reagan and other nationally recognized leaders;

Whereas, The naming of that section of State Road 162 in Spencer County from its intersection with the Abraham Lincoln Parkway (U.S. Highway 231) to Interstate Highway 64 in honor of William A. Koch would be a fitting memorial and tribute to the tireless efforts and community service William Koch performed, benefiting the residents of Spencer County and southern Indiana; and

Whereas, The contributions of William A. Koch, a lifelong resident of Spencer County, have greatly improved the lives of the citizens of the county and Indiana and have offered so much to Spencer County, where his legacy is the town of Santa Claus, Holiday World and Splashin' Safari, and his beloved family: Therefore,

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

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives urges the
2 Indiana Department of Transportation to rename that part of State Road
3 162 in Spencer County from U.S. Highway 231 in Gentryville, Indiana,
4 to Interstate Highway 64 in honor of William A. Koch.
5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
6 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to Patricia
7 Yellig Koch, his wife of 40 years, and their five children — Will and
8 Philip Koch of Santa Claus, Indiana, Daniel Koch of Miami, Florida,
9 Dr. Kristi Koch of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Natalie Koch of West
10 Lafayette, Indiana — and the commissioner of the Indiana Department
11 of Transportation.

