

Regular Session, 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY SENATORS MORRISH AND MOUNT

ROADS/HIGHWAYS. Requests DOTD to designate that portion of LA-82 in Cameron Parish as the "Rodney Guilbeaux Memorial Highway."

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to designate that portion of Louisiana Highway 82 located in Cameron Parish as the "Rodney Guilbeaux Memorial Highway" and to erect proper signage along the route reflecting this designation.

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2007, Louisiana lost one of its most respected citizens with the death of Rodney John Guilbeaux, Jr., also affectionately known as the "Black Cajun"; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Guilbeaux served in World War II as a junior-grade lieutenant radio officer in the United States Merchant Marine, and following several jobs, including owning and operating a store in Holly Beach, he retired as the general sales manager after thirty years of service with the Borden Company; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and was active in his church, serving as a Eucharistic minister at the Holy Trinity Church in Holly Beach, Our Lady of Assumption Church in Johnson Bayou, and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Sulphur; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Guilbeaux remained actively involved in his community throughout the course of his life and served as either president or chairman of the following

1 organizations: Cameron Parish Chamber of Commerce, Lake Charles High Noon Lions
2 Club, Louisiana Lions Eye Research Foundation, Louisiana Lions' League for Crippled
3 Children, Better Business Bureau of Southwest Louisiana, Southwest Louisiana Safety
4 Engineering Society, Calcasieu Area Safety Council, International Order of Alhambra, and
5 Our Lady's School Organization; and

6 WHEREAS, Rodney Guilbeaux also served as the district governor for District 8-O
7 of Lions Clubs International and was a board member of the Southwest Louisiana Restaurant
8 Association, Calcasieu United Appeals, West Cameron Port Commission, Environmental
9 Development Task Force in Louisiana, and the St. Louis High School Board; and

10 WHEREAS, as a popular southwest Louisiana sports figure, he was a recognizable
11 voice as a radio announcer of McNeese State University basketball and was inducted into
12 the Wall of Honor for Sulphur Parks and Recreation (SPAR) for his continued support and
13 work with area youth recreation; and

14 WHEREAS, Rodney Guilbeaux was celebrated for his strong dedication to
15 maintaining the south Louisiana coastline and for his personal investment of time in serving
16 the needs in his community at Constance Beach and throughout the parish of Cameron; and

17 WHEREAS, as an active member of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and
18 the recipient of the Coastal Stewardship Award in 1998, Guilbeaux consistently
19 demonstrated a dedicated spirit and intense determination in any effort aimed at improving
20 the quality of life for all of the citizens of southwest Louisiana, including efforts to protect
21 his beloved Constance Beach and Cameron Parish, its citizens and its infrastructure from
22 coastal erosion and its effects, such as the impacts from hurricanes and tropical storms; and

23 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in securing the breakwater systems along Louisiana
24 Highway 82 in Cameron Parish and, for his efforts in the protection and restoration of the
25 coastal ecosystems in south Louisiana, he was named as Citizen of the Year in 1997 in
26 Cameron Parish; and

27 WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities
28 and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon people like
29 Rodney Guilbeaux; and

30 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana believes that a fitting tribute to the life and

1 legacy of Rodney Guilbeaux is to designate that portion of Louisiana Highway 82 in
2 Cameron Parish in his honor so that this extraordinary individual will live on in the hearts
3 and minds of all who knew and respected him.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
5 urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to designate that
6 portion of Louisiana Highway 82 located in Cameron Parish as the "Rodney Guilbeaux
7 Memorial Highway" and to erect proper signage along the route reflecting this designation.

8 BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of
9 the Department of Transportation and Development.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sherri H. Breaux.

DIGEST

Morrish

SCR No.

Requests DOTD to designate that portion of LA-82 in Cameron Parish as the "Rodney Guilbeaux Memorial Highway" and to erect proper signage along the route reflecting this designation.