

Date of Hearing: August 29, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

SCR 169 (Dodd) – As Introduced August 5, 2024

SENATE VOTE: 33-0

SUBJECT: Willie Mays Highway

SUMMARY: Designates a specified portion of Interstate 80 in the City and County of San Francisco as the Willie Mays Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways. This includes the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans determine the cost of appropriate signage consistent with requirements for the state highway system, and only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

COMMENTS: On June 19th, 2024, the world bid farewell to the legendary Willie Mays, who passed away at the age of 93. Revered by many as the greatest to ever grace the baseball diamond, Mays's career was nothing short of extraordinary.

Mays was elected to play in 24 All-Star games, won the Rookie of the Year award, secured two Most Valuable Player (MVP) titles, and earned 12 Gold Glove awards, and his addition to the Hall of Fame in 1979 was a testament to his unparalleled skill and his iconic presence on the field, playing the game with unmatched flair, charisma, and grace.

A true patriot, Willie Mays's contributions extended far beyond his athletic achievements, as he served in the United States Army during the Korean War, where he continued to share his love for baseball with his fellow servicemen.

As one of the first Black players to play Major League Baseball, Mays broke barriers and inspired countless individuals to pursue their passion for the game, leaving an indelible mark on the sport while changing the minds of society during the civil rights movement.

In 2015, in recognition of his extraordinary talent and his unwavering dedication to uplifting young athletes, President Barack Obama awarded Willie Mays the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a prestigious honor which celebrated not only his remarkable accomplishments on the field, but also his impactful community service, steadfast commitment to youth sports, and service for the greater good.

Today, Willie Mays's legacy lives on through the "Say Hey! Foundation," which he founded to promote baseball among underprivileged youth, with the mission to ensure that every child has the opportunity to play baseball by providing coaching, equipment, and community support to make this dream a reality.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Mayor of City & County of San Francisco, London Breed

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Aimee Anspach / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093