Transportation Committee
Public Testimony
February 9, 2015

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 6342 AN ACT NAMING A PORTION OF ROUTE 196 IN HONOR OF RUSSELL OAKES.

Dear Co-Chairman of the Transportation Committee; Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, and esteemed members,

On January 7, 2015, the town of East Hampton lost a great man. Russell Oakes had been involved with Old Home Day for many years and while serving many roles, his most prized function was that of parade Chairman. Russ worked tirelessly contracting and negotiating local bands and drum corps, local and state police, state representatives, etc. Russ loved seeing our town come together with floats from our organizations and businesses. There was no greater Old Home Day joy for Russ than to watch the hundreds of men, women and children line the streets of the parade route to watch the longest running parade in Middlesex county! We watched year after year as Russ would enthusiastically share with our group what marching band he had secured, or if the Mummers would be joining that year. His excitement was felt by all of us. Assisted by his wife Sheila and their 6 children (and 9 grandchildren), the parade came together year after year like a well oiled machine.

Last year, as the parade came down Summit St. (RT 196), I was lucky enough to sit alongside Russ in the gazebo on the hill. Seeing the pride and joy in his eyes brought a tear to mine. On behalf of the East Hampton Old Home Day Association, we thank you for your consideration in naming a portion of Route 196 in honor of Russell Oakes.

Respectfully submitted,
East Hampton Old Home Day Association
Committee Members:

Pam Joslyn-Greenwald, President
Matthew Walton, Vice President
Nancy Ninesling, Treasurer
Jennifer Collingwood, Secretary

Sheila Oakes

Lynda Krasnitski	Gary Collingwood
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