

**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,

I would like to thank you for considering Bill 6342. I am in full support of naming a section of route 196 after my father, Russell F. Oakes.

My family and I are honored that this bill is even being considered.

It feels a bit awkward to be writing in support of this bill as my Father was not one to seek accolades or praise for the support he gave to the citizens of East Hampton. However, naming a portion of route 196 in his honor is certainly a fitting tribute.

That stretch of Route 196 being considered for re-naming is part of the East Hampton Old Home Day Parade route. Dad was the Parade Chairman for 20 years. It was through his unwavering commitment and dedication that the parade has grown into the beloved community event and celebration it is today.

It would make me so proud to have such a permanent and tangible reminder of all my father did for the Town of East Hampton. I love the thought that my grandchildren could some day march in the Old Home Day Parade and turn onto a street honoring their Great Grandfather. By having a section of the parade route dedicated to Dad, he would continue to be part of something that meant so much to him and live on in the joy that would pass by each year for the Old Home Day Parade.

The sadness and grief my family is dealing with because of my Dad's passing has been greatly tempered by the love, support and out pouring of gratitude we've received from the citizens of East Hampton. We have been overwhelmed and grateful to be part of such an amazing place and humbled by the warm feelings our father engendered among the community.

I sincerely thank you again for this consideration and would like to like to extend a warm invitation to join us on July 9-11, 2015 for the most glorious celebration - East Hampton Old Home Days... my dad would be so pleased.

Sincerely,

Maggie Oakes Joyce
February 5, 2015