

**ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
GEORGIA 1937-1938**

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TOM BELL HIGHWAY — DESIGNATED.

No. 45.

A RESOLUTION

Georgia is proud of her distinguished sons and from time to time tries to recognize both their private and public services by commemorating their names through the ages. For years there has lived in Georgia and in the Ninth Congressional District an able citizen and statesman that the people repeatedly have elected to public office, county, state, and national.

Hon. Thomas M. Bell represented the Ninth Congressional District of Georgia from 1904 to 1930, a period of twenty-six years of continuous and progressive service -- as a member of the Congress of the United States. He performed his duties well -- with credit to himself and to the people he so efficiently represented.

To him belongs the honor and credit of having introduced the first bill to provide for highways -- a bill asking for seventy-five million dollars. This bill was introduced in 1906 and thereafter until it became a Federal law. Our friend has never sought publicity nor claimed to be originator of the present highway system in the United States. However, the facts are a matter of public record.

Hon. Thomas M. Bell is a modest and an unassuming gentleman, a prince among men, loved and respected and admired by the people of the state for his valuable services and lovable qualities. He has retired to private life, but his splendid public service for more than a third of a century is still remembered. In the nature of things, his life today is in the sere and yellow leaf, and to him should be given a rose while living rather than a garland of the most exquisite flowers after he has crossed the crystal river where they ring those golden bells for you and me.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House, the Senate concurring, designate the trail or highway now being built from Cleveland to Hiawassee via Nacoochee, Helen, Hiawassee and Murphy, North Carolina, as the Tom Bell Highway, in honor of Hon. Thomas M. Bell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk send a copy of this Resolution to the Highway Board and a copy of same to the Hon. Thomas Bell.

Approval Date: Approved February 16, 1938.