

## **A RESOLUTION BY THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA 1996**

HAMMETT L. BOWEN, JR., MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY — DESIGNATED.

WHEREAS, during combat against hostile forces in one of the fiercest firefights of the Vietnam War, Staff Sergeant Hammett L. Bowen, Jr., a native born Georgian of the City of LaGrange in Troup County, distinguished himself as one of the nation's greatest heroes; and,

WHEREAS, as platoon leader on a reconnaissance mission in enemy controlled terrain, his platoon came under the withering crossfire of an enemy ambush force; and,

WHEREAS, he immediately placed heavy suppressive fire on the enemy positions and ordered his men to fall back to safety. During the fall back, an enemy grenade was thrown amid him and his men. He shouted a warning and hurled himself on the grenade, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers; and,

WHEREAS, Sergeant Bowen, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic service and sacrifice, merits the recognition of the State of Georgia, and it is only fitting that his name be forever perpetuated in an appropriate fashion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the portion of State Route 109 extending from Morgan Street in the City of LaGrange westward to the Meriwether County line be named the "Hammett L. Bowen, Jr., Medal of Honor Highway" in recognition and honor of his valor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commissioner of Transportation be instructed to place appropriate signs for this designation, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and an appropriate copy be provided to the Bowen family.

**Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 1996.**