

A RESOLUTION BY THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA 1997

MAJOR DAMON J. GAUSE BYPASS — DESIGNATED.

WHEREAS, throughout the history of this great nation any time the future looked bleak, courageous men and women have demonstrated the indomitable will and determination that has made it great; and

WHEREAS, their actions have inspired their fellow Americans to rise above themselves to overcome the enemy despite all odds; and

WHEREAS, Major Damon J. Gause, a graduate of the City of Jefferson's Martin Institute was such a person; and

WHEREAS, after being captured and held prisoner briefly by Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands after the fall of Bataan, he managed to escape and survive a 3,200 mile journey through hostile forces to Australia; and

WHEREAS, arriving there, he joined the forces of General Douglas MacArthur, who personally awarded him the Nation's second-highest military decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross; and

WHEREAS, after a hero's welcome, Major Gause toured the United States as living proof that our foes were not invincible, then saw his only child for one day before departing for England to fly in combat against Germany; and

WHEREAS, after flying a number of combat missions, his life was lost in a crash during a training mission near London in March of 1944; and

WHEREAS, his exploits brought a ray of light to the nation in the early days of World War II, and his heroic deeds and supreme sacrifice helped assure the freedoms we enjoy today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Jefferson Bypass be designated the Major Damon J. Gause Bypass upon completion, to remind all who pass that way of the sacrifice and contributions this great American made to his county, his state and his nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, a suitable copy be presented to the family of Major Gause, and the Commissioner of Transportation be instructed to erect appropriate signs designating the Major Damon J. Gause Bypass.

Adopted this 18th day of December, 1997.