

A RESOLUTION BY THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA 2000

BENJAMIN WYNN FORTSON, JR. MEMORIAL HIGHWAY — DESIGNATED.

WHEREAS, Benjamin Wynn Fortson, Jr. was born in Wilkes County; and

WHEREAS, he attended Arlington, Georgia public schools, Emory at Oxford, Starks University, Georgia Institute of Technology and received an honorary degree from John Marshall Law School; and

WHEREAS, he was employed in Wilkes County by the Citizen's National Bank and the Washington Loan and Banking Company until 1929, when he was injured in an automobile accident; and

WHEREAS, after said automobile accident, Benjamin Wynn Fortson, Jr. was confined to a wheelchair for the remainder of his full and productive life; and

WHEREAS, he was elected Senator for the 50th District from 1939 to 1942, serving on numerous committees including the Highways and Public Roads Committee; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives from 1943 until 1946, where he participated in dozens of committees, including serving as chairman of the Hygiene and Sanitation Committee and as secretary of the Insurance Committee; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed Secretary of State for the State of Georgia on February 25, 1946 and served in that capacity until his death on May 19, 1979 including serving as an ex-officio member of the Jekyll Island State Park Authority, the Stone Mountain Memorial Association, and the State Election Board; and

WHEREAS, during Georgia's "Three Governor's Controversy" in 1947, he was the stabilizing influence, keeping the State Seal hidden in his wheelchair and preventing a coup during that constitutional crisis; and

WHEREAS, during his public service, he was president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, served on the Governor's Committee on Interstate Cooperation, and numerous other boards as well as serving as president of the Georgia Society for Crippled Children; and

WHEREAS, he was married 40 years to the late Mary Cade and they had one daughter and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized as a truly great American by the cities of Rayle and Washington and by Wilkes County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that U.S. Highway 78 from the Oglethorpe County line to the Sam McGill Memorial Parkway be named the "Benjamin Wynn Fortson, Jr. Memorial Highway."

IT IS RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that the Fortson family be provided a suitable copy of this resolution and the Commissioner of Transportation be instructed to install appropriate signs designating this facility.

Adopted this 20th day of January, 2000