

# ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA 2021

Act 301

Senate Resolution 39, Part XIII

Effective May 10, 2021

MSG MARK ALLEN AND SGT MIKE STOKELY MEMORIAL HIGHWAY — DESIGNATED.

## A RESOLUTION

Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

WHEREAS, MSG Mark Allen and SGT Mike Stokely served together as guardians of this nation's freedom and liberty with the Georgia Army National Guard, 108th Cavalry 48<sup>th</sup> Brigade; and

WHEREAS, these Loganville, Georgia, residents were together on May 15, 2005, when their unit saw heavy enemy action in Iraq's Triangle of Death; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2005, at the age of 23, SGT Stokely made the ultimate sacrifice when he was killed in action near Yusufiyah south of Bagdad; and

WHEREAS, despite the tragic loss of his friend SGT Stokely and other members of his platoon, MSG Allen rejoined an infantry unit and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 when he sustained a serious head injury in a firefight with enemy forces; and

WHEREAS, after a ten-year battle with his injuries and numerous surgeries, MSG Allen passed away on October 12, 2019; and

WHEREAS, MSG Allen and SGT Stokely demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice their own personal safety and comfort to ensure the well-being of their fellow man; and

WHEREAS, their selfless service to this nation and unyielding commitment to protecting the people and ideals of the United States will long be remembered and appreciated; and

WHEREAS, MSG Allen and SGT Stokely embodied the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in something greater than themselves, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that these remarkable and distinguished Georgians be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in their memory.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that the portion of State Route 81, from US 78, to the Newton County line, is dedicated as the MSG Mark Allen and SGT Mike Stokely Memorial Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facility named in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this Resolution available for distribution to the Department of Transportation and to the families of MSG Mark Allen and SGT Mike Stokely.