

**ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA 2024**

Act 706

House Resolution 1215

Effective May 6, 2024

**SPEAKER DAVID E. RALSTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE — DESIGNATED.**

**A RESOLUTION**

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

WHEREAS, the Honorable David E. Ralston was born on March 14, 1954, in Ellijay, Georgia, a distinguished native son of North Georgia; and

WHEREAS, he attended Young Harris College and later earned a bachelor's degree from North Georgia College and State University and earned his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Ralston dedicated his life to the service of the citizens of Gilmer and Fannin counties, working to make their lives better in any way he could; and

WHEREAS, he ran a successful law practice providing sound legal advice and counsel in Blue Ridge, Fannin County, Georgia, for more than four decades; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, he began a long and distinguished career in public service when he was elected to the Georgia Senate, where he served three consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, where he was elected Speaker in 2010, a position he held until his untimely death; and

WHEREAS, as Speaker, he shepherded many pieces of legislation beneficial to the citizens of the great State of Georgia through the legislature, including tax relief, criminal justice reform, transportation infrastructure funding modernization, and adoption reform; and

WHEREAS, he had a particular passion for improving the healthcare provided to Georgia's citizens struggling with mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2022, he died peacefully at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta surrounded by his beloved wife Sheree; his children, Matt and Elizabeth; and other family members; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an interstate connector, bridge, and highway in his memory; and

WHEREAS, his legacy will live on as all who travel such interstate connector, bridge, and highway will see his name forever being recognized.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that the new bridge over the Toccoa/Ocoee River in Fannin County is dedicated as the Speaker David E. Ralston Memorial Bridge.**

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 Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this Resolution available for distribution to the Department of Transportation and to the family of Speaker David E. Ralston.