

**ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
GEORGIA 1997**

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**CHET ATKINS PARKWAY;
WENDY BAGWELL PARKWAY — DESIGNATED.**

No. 14 (House Resolution No. 245).

A RESOLUTION

Designating a portion of Interstate I-185 as the "Chet Atkins Parkway"; designating a portion of U.S. 278 in Paulding County as the "Wendy Bagwell Parkway"; and for other purposes.

PART 1

WHEREAS, Chet Atkins has attained recognition and accomplishments achieved by very few popular musicians and recording artists, and he is well known and regarded as a gifted country music star; and

WHEREAS, he spent a number of years during his childhood in Harris County, Georgia, where he attended public school at the Mountain Hill Schoolhouse where his father, James Arley Atkins, taught piano, guitar, and voice; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Harris County are especially proud to have such a link with this country music star who has frequently acknowledged his Southern roots and strong connections with Georgia and its people; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting and appropriate that this musician who is the youngest person inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and who has won 13 Grammy Awards be appropriately honored by this state which contributed to his early development and manhood.

PART 2

WHEREAS, Wendell Lee "Wendy" Bagwell attained recognition and accomplishments achieved by very few popular musicians and recording artists, and together with his group "The Sunliters" was well known and regarded as a gifted Southern gospel music star; and

WHEREAS, Wendy Bagwell was born in Chamblee, Georgia, in 1925 and grew up in Cumming, which he left at the age of 17 to join the United States Marine Corps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, he fought for his country on Iwo Jima, Saipan, Tinian, and the Marshall Islands, receiving the Bronze Star and a Letter of Commendation for Bravery; and

WHEREAS, Wendy Bagwell came home to Georgia after the war, marrying Melba Hogue Bagwell, his devoted wife of 50 years, and raising his nephew, Ronnie, and his two daughters, Rita Jima and Wendy Lea; and

WHEREAS, he founded his own furniture business, still in operation today in Mableton, and in 1954 joined together with Geraldine (Jerri) Morrison and Georgia Jones to form the Sunliters, a local gospel group which would be joined in 1960 by Jan Buckner, Wendy's niece-in-law; and

WHEREAS, Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters went on to become one of the premier Southern gospel groups in the nation, remaining together for 36 years without a personnel change; and

WHEREAS, Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters won world-wide acclaim, as well as a Top 5 Grammy Award in 1995, Gold Record for Million Seller, Special Award from the Gospel Music Association, and too many other awards to mention; and

WHEREAS, Wendy Bagwell, a family man and a devoted follower of Christ, passed away on June 11, 1996, mourned by his family, his friends, the gospel music community, and the citizens of the State of Georgia, and it is only fitting that this state honor his memory.

PART 3

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY that the portion of Interstate I-185 that runs from Interstate I-85 through Troup County to the Harris County line and that runs through Harris County from Highway 116 south to the Muscogee County line is designated as the "Chet Atkins Parkway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of U.S. 278 in Paulding County is designated as the "Wendy Bagwell Parkway."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs so designating the parkways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to Chet Atkins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the family of the late Wendy Bagwell.

Approval Date: Approved April 22, 1997.

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**L. G. LANDERS MEMORIAL BRIDGE;
WENDY BAGWELL PARKWAY — DESIGNATED.**

No. 25 (Senate Resolution No. 304).

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the late L. G. Landers and designating the bridge separating Austell Road and Maxim Road (State Route 5) in the City of Austell as the "L. G. Landers Memorial Bridge"; honoring the late Wendell Lee Bagwell and designating a portion of U.S. 278 in Paulding County the "Wendy Bagwell Parkway"; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, L. G. Landers was a beloved resident of Cobb County; and

WHEREAS, L. G. Landers, through his commitment to honesty, his love of his community and the State of Georgia, and his devotion to his friends and family endeared himself to every citizen of Cobb County; and

WHEREAS, L.G. Landers, on his passing, was mourned and remembered by Cobb County as one of the noblest citizens and leaders in the county's history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the members of this body honor and express their appreciation of the late L. G. Landers for his lifetime of service to his community and to the State of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge separating Austell Road and Maxim Road (State Route 5) in the City of Austell is designated as the "L. G. Landers Memorial Bridge," and that the portion of U.S. 278 in Paulding County is designated as the "Wendy Bagwell Parkway."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs so designating the bridge and the parkway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the families of the late L. G. Landers and the late Wendell Bagwell.

Approval Date: Approved April 29, 1997.