

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

Act 63

House Resolution 324

Effective April 29, 1997

TRAIL OF TEARS HIGHWAY — DESIGNATED.

A RESOLUTION

Dedicating the Trail of Tears Highway; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation once stretched across North Georgia, a thriving advanced civilization of literate farmers, merchants, and professionals with its capital at New Echota in what is now Gordon County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, New Echota was converted from the capital of a nation to a holding pen for the human inhabitants of that nation as they were rounded up and corralled like cattle to embark on one of the most sordid chapters in our state's history, the forced migration of the Cherokee people from their native Southeastern foothills and mountains to Oklahoma, an event that lives in infamy as the Trail of Tears; and

WHEREAS, the farms and homes left behind by these peaceful people were taken over by Caucasian settlers even as their elderly, young, and sick were dying beside the trail during what was euphemistically called a "relocation" by those in power at the time; and

WHEREAS, today, State Route 225 extends from the New Echota Historic Site and the Chief Vann House State Historic Site to the Georgia-Tennessee state line to the closest point to the eastern terminus of the National Park Service's Trail of Tears National Historic Trail near Charleston, Tennessee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that the portion of State Route 225, from Interstate 75, north to the Georgia-Tennessee state line, is designated as the Trail of Tears Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to place 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 transmit appropriate copies of this Resolution to the Department of Transportation, the press, and the public.