

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

Act 25

Senate Resolution 304, Part b

Effective April 29, 1997

WENDY BAGWELL PARKWAY — DESIGNATED.

A RESOLUTION

Dedicating the Wendy Bagwell Parkway; and for other purposes.

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.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that the portion of US-278, within Paulding County, is designated as the "Wendy Bagwell Parkway."

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 Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this Resolution to the Department of Transportation and the family of Wendell Bagwell.

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

Act 14

House Resolution 245, Part II

Effective April 22, 1997

WENDY BAGWELL PARKWAY — DESIGNATED.

A RESOLUTION

Dedicating the Wendy Bagwell Parkway; and for other purposes.

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.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that the portion of US-278, within Paulding County, is designated as the "Wendy Bagwell Parkway."

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 and the family of Wendy Bagwell.