

RESOLUTIONS BY THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA 1998

Adopted May 21, 1998

GEORGIA T. SMITH PARKWAY — DESIGNATED.

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Honorable George T. Smith was born in Mitchell County on October 15, 1916 where he attended the public school system, graduating from Mitchell County High School with top honors in his class; and

WHEREAS, he enrolled in Middle Georgia College in 1938, but transferred to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton after his first quarter; and

WHEREAS, he volunteered for the U.S. Navy in 1940, answering his country's call to duty, and was commissioned as an ensign in 1941; and

WHEREAS, he was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, having been awarded three War Theater Ribbons, a Secretary of The Navy Citation and the Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, he earned his Law Degree from the University of Georgia Law School in 1947, began the practice of law in Cairo that same year; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his law practice, he served as Grady County Attorney, attorney for the Grady County Board of Education, Cairo City Attorney and Solicitor of the City Court of Cairo; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the House of Representatives from Grady County in 1958, where he served for eight years. During his tenure he served as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and a member of the Judiciary, State of the Republic and University System Committees; and

WHEREAS, he was elected Speaker of the House in 1963, serving in that position until 1966 when he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, after serving as Lieutenant Governor he returned to private law practice in the Atlanta area until 1976, when he was elected to a six-year term as a Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, in 1980 Mr. Smith was elected to the Supreme Court of Georgia, providing outstanding service until his retirement on December 20, 1991; and

WHEREAS, he is the only person in modern times to serve as the presiding officer of both the House and Senate, and the only person in Georgia's history to win contested elections to serve in all three branches of state government, the legislative, the executive and the judicial; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's record of service is unparalleled, it is fitting and proper that he be recognized for his outstanding contributions to this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA, that the portion of State Route 97, from the city limits of Camilla, to State Route 262, be designated as the "George T. Smith Highway," to assure that all who pass this way will be reminded of this great Georgian's service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect appropriate signing for this designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be presented to Mr. Smith.