

ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA 1998

Act 112

Senate Resolution 639

Effective April 20, 1998

TOMMY IRVIN PARKWAY — DESIGNATED.

A RESOLUTION

Dedicating the Tommy Irvin Parkway; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Tommy Irvin was born in Hall County and is a long-time resident of Habersham County; and

WHEREAS, he is the dean of Georgia's constitutional officers, as the longest serving Commissioner of Agriculture in the state's history, and serving as president of both the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, the Southern Association of the State Departments of Agriculture, and twice as president of the Southern United States Trade Association; and

WHEREAS, in his continuous service as Commissioner of Agriculture since 1969, he has directed Georgia's leadership to a place of national and international prominence as one of the most progressive departments of agriculture in the nation by being the first to tackle problems that not only were causing severe economic loss for our state but also posing human health hazards while being constantly vigilant of the fiscal interests of the citizens by developing one of the most efficiently and economically operated agencies in our state government; and

WHEREAS, he has provided distinguished service to public and private education in this state as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hazel Grove Elementary School, as a member of the Board of Trustees of North Habersham High School, as a member and Chairman of the Habersham County Board of Education for almost 20 years, as a director and president of the Georgia School Boards Association, and as a member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Truett-McConnell College; and

WHEREAS, he was elected by the citizens of his county to represent them in the Georgia General Assembly for four terms, and while there served as administrative floor leader, chairing the House Industrial Relations Committee and the Governor's Conference on Education, a member of the House Appropriations, Education and Agriculture Committees, and sponsoring numerous pieces of legislation, including the constitutional amendment that allowed public funding of school lunch programs, and later served as the Executive Secretary for Governor Lester Maddox; and

WHEREAS, he married the former Edna Bernice Frady in June, 1947, and during their more than 50 years of marriage they have been blessed with five children and 14 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, prior to entering into public service, he had developed himself into one of the most successful young businessmen in northeast Georgia by the age of 25; and

WHEREAS, he has contributed back to his community and society through religious and volunteer efforts as a Deacon in Antioch Baptist Church, as Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, as a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and an active member of the Shrine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that the members of this body honor and commend Tommy Irvin for his many years of dedicated service in his professional, political, educational, community, and private efforts for his state, his community and its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the portion of Georgia Highway 365 within Habersham County, from the Hall County line, to the Stephens County line, is designated as the "Tommy Irvin 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 such designation of the above described portion of Georgia Highway 365 as the "Tommy Irvin Parkway" shall not affect the current designation of a portion of US-441 as the "Blue Star Memorial Highway" where the two highways are concurrent in Habersham County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such designations of the above described portion of Georgia Highway 365 as the "Tommy Irvin Parkway" shall not affect the current designation of a portion of US-23 as the "Thomas E. Watson Highway" where the two highways are concurrent in Habersham County.

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 Tommy Irvin.