

ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA 2003

Act 403

House Resolution 107

Effective June 4, 2003

STAFF SGT AVELY W. RUNNELS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY — DESIGNATED.

A RESOLUTION

Dedicating the Staff SGT Avely W. Runnels Memorial Highway; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels was born on August 31, 1975, in Gainesville, Florida, and was the son of Eldridge Ray Runnels and Hester Cross Runnels; and

WHEREAS, his family moved to Morven, Georgia when he was eight years old; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Brooks County High School in 1993, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps to serve the country which he so dearly loved; and

WHEREAS, in four short years of military service he became a qualified air crew member and crew chief, amassed 393 flight hours, and exemplified the finest qualities of a Marine; and

WHEREAS, he served two years on the Experimental Aircraft Detachment of the Presidential Support Squadron, HMX1, and he was honored with the award of two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Good Conduct Medals; and

WHEREAS, he was the devoted husband of Mrs. Karen Runnels, the father of a wonderful daughter, Dakota Runnels, and a loving son; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of Morven Baptist Church and was a friend to everyone who had the opportunity to know him; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2000, Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels lost his life in the service of his country as the result of an aircraft crash during a night-training mission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that in memory of the service of Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels to the city of Morven, Brooks County, and the State of Georgia, the portion of State Highway 76, within the city limits of Morven, is designated as the Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels Memorial 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 Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and the family of Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels.