

# ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA 2007

Act 361

House Resolution 171, Part IX

Effective May 29, 2007

## ERK RUSSELL HIGHWAY — DESIGNATED.

### A RESOLUTION

Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, news of the passing of Coach Erskine "Erk" Russell, late of Statesboro and Georgia Southern University, is received with deep regret by this body; and

WHEREAS, the life led by this distinguished gentleman of 80 years rendered his name dear to the hearts of his family, his many friends, and fans alike; and

WHEREAS, Coach Russell received a bachelor's and master's degree from Auburn University where he played football, basketball, baseball, and tennis, earning ten varsity letters, and he remains Auburn's last four-sport letterman; and

WHEREAS, in 17 years as defensive coordinator for the University of Georgia, Coach Russell's tough "Junkyard Dogs" defenses were instrumental in the Bulldogs winning four SEC titles and one National Championship, and he became synonymous with Bulldog football; and

WHEREAS, Coach Russell left the University of Georgia in 1981 to resurrect the Georgia Southern University football program, where he served as head coach of the Eagles from 1981 through 1989; and

WHEREAS, Coach Russell's remarkable record of 83-22-1 and three Division 1-AA National Championships at Georgia Southern University established him as one of America's winningest coaches, averaging 10.4 wins per season; and

WHEREAS, Coach Russell was honored twice as the Kodak-American Football Coaches Association 1-AA "National Coach of the Year," twice as the Kodak-American Football Coaches Association 1-AA "Regional Coach of the Year," five times as "Coach of the Year" by the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, once as the USA Today Georgia "Coach of the Year," and again by USA Today as Georgia "Coach of the Decade," as well as receiving many other awards, and he was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1987; and

WHEREAS, much of the growth and development of Georgia Southern University and the Bulloch County region have been greatly attributed to the successes of Coach Russell, and on January 25, 2007, the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce posthumously named Erk Russell the "Businessman of the Century"; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Jean Farmer Russell of Statesboro; two sons and daughters-in-law, Rusty and Pam Russell of Statesboro and Jay and Ida Russell of LaGrange; and ten grandchildren, Brian Faros of Kansas City, Jill Fawcett and Angie Faros of Frisco, Texas, Audrey and Charlee Russell of Statesboro, Mandy Russell of LaGrange, Davis Russell of Valdosta, Murphy Russell of Woodstock, and Henry Hughes and Fred Hughes of LaGrange; and

WHEREAS, the way Coach Russell lived his life, reflected in his motto "Just Do Right," served to influence the morals and ethics of all who knew him, most especially those who played for him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that the members of this body express regret at the passing of Coach Erskine "Erk" Russell and honor his memory by designating State Route 26/US-80, from US-25 in the city of Hopeulikit, to the eastern city limits of Statesboro, as the Erk Russell Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities 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 Coach Erskine "Erk" Russell.