

# General Assembly



## A RESOLUTION

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

### PART I

WHEREAS, Mr. Ralph A. Pierce was born on October 17, 1912, in Lumpkin County, Georgia, and during his lifetime he played a vital role in leadership and demonstrated a deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong Lumpkin County resident, Mr. Pierce and his family operated C.D. Pierce and Son Grocery at the junction of Ga. 52 and Ga. 115 for 64 years; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Pierce was a member of Wahoo Baptist Church and taught the adult Sunday school class for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pierce served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army, valiantly and courageously participating in the Normandy invasion as a TEC4 during World War II; and

WHEREAS, prior to his passing on August 9, 2012, Mr. Pierce was the oldest living veteran in Lumpkin County at the age of 99 years, nine months, and 23 days; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming a road in his memory.

### PART II

WHEREAS, Judge William Jeffrey Lowe was born on April 12, 1958, in Lumpkin County, Georgia, and upon his graduation from Lumpkin County High School, he enrolled in the police academy and began work as a Lumpkin County deputy sheriff; and

WHEREAS, he dedicated 21 years to protecting and serving the citizens of Georgia as a deputy in Lumpkin and Forsyth counties, until he was asked to serve as Lumpkin County's Assistant Magistrate Judge; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Judge Lowe was elected as a Magistrate Judge and served until his passing in 2012; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and vision were instrumental to numerous organizations, including as a charter member and president of the Georgia Jail Association and as a representative of the Ninth Circuit on the Council of Magistrate Court Judges; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lowe actively gave back to his community through his work with the local Jaycees, the Lions Club, Habitat for Humanity, Woodmen of the World, and Blue Mountain Lodge #38; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Judge Lowe was a lifetime member of Antioch Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lowe was united in love and marriage to his supportive and caring wife, Debbie, and the couple were inducted into the Order of the Eastern Star; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming an intersection in his memory.

### **PART III**

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost a hero and good Samaritan with the passing of Mr. Dekai Amonrasi on July 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Amonrasi was born on February 26, 1964, the beloved son of Donald Fount and Fonseca Richards; and

WHEREAS, a true hero, Mr. Amonrasi selflessly responded to action when he witnessed a fellow driver's car hit a guard rail and flip over a bridge on Roosevelt Highway and onto train tracks below; and

WHEREAS, with only the thought of aiding another in need, Mr. Amonrasi exited his vehicle to provide assistance to the accident victim and lost his life in his attempt to save another's; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Amonrasi's willingness to sacrifice his own life to help another in need serves as the epitome of courage and bravery; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the heroic actions of this remarkable Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming a bridge in his memory.

### **PART IV**

WHEREAS, Melvin Ernest Thompson was born on May 1, 1903, in Millen, Georgia, the beloved son of Eva Inez Edenfield Thompson and Henry J. Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Governor Thompson earned a bachelor's degree from Emory University and a master's degree from the University of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, he began his career in the field of education as a principal and coach at Emanuel County Institute, served as superintendent for the Hawkinsville Public School System, worked as a state school supervisor and an assistant state superintendent of schools, and served as secretary of the Executive Department under Governor Ellis Arnall; and

WHEREAS, after a two-year term as the state revenue commissioner, Governor Thompson was elected to this state's highest office in 1947; and

WHEREAS, during Governor Thompson's tenure as governor, the University of Georgia's veterinary medical school and the Georgia Institute of Technology's engineering building were constructed, educators received salary increases, and the state purchased Jekyll Island, which was turned into a successful, year-round public resort; and



WHEREAS, Governor Thompson was instrumental in the success of the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County, where his leadership as a founding member of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial Authority spearheaded much of the urban development and planning for Valdosta and the surrounding areas, including the Azalea City Industrial Park; and

WHEREAS, a community leader and advocate, Governor Thompson served as chairman of the Education Committee for the Trade School Development Committee, president of the Valdosta Rotary Club, and a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, WOW, Civitan, and Shriners; and

WHEREAS, Governor Thompson was united in love and marriage to his wife, Ann Newton Thompson, and he was blessed with a remarkable son, Melvin Ernest Thompson, Jr., and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming a road in his memory.

#### **PART V**

WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant John A. Franklin was born on January 25, 1942, and served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army with C. Company 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, a native of Rossville, Georgia, Sergeant Franklin gave the ultimate sacrifice on April 26, 1968, when he was killed in action in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Franklin demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting democracy and gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the well-being of his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, it is important that fallen soldiers are thanked for their selfless service to this nation and honored for their unyielding commitment to protecting the people and ideals of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Franklin embodied the spirit of service and found meaning in something greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the sacrifice of this remarkable and distinguished American be honored appropriately.

## **PART VI**

WHEREAS, Mr. Fernando Joseph Torras was born in 1885 in Brunswick, Georgia, and during his lifetime he played a vital role in leadership and demonstrated a deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia and Glynn County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Torras served as Brunswick's city manager and was the main engineer for the causeway that was completed in 1924 to connect Brunswick to St. Simons Island and Sea Island; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Mr. Torras built rail lines, bridges, and roads in the jungles of South America before tackling the causeway project which alleviated the need for an hour ferry ride to get to St. Simons from the mainland; and

WHEREAS, at a time when others thought the construction of a causeway was impossible, Mr. Torras had the foresight and experience to realize that the soft mud of the marsh beds could be dredged to make a stable roadbed; and

WHEREAS, the causeway was completed and open to vehicular traffic on June 26, 1924, after one year and one month of construction and was recognized as an engineering feat of history; and

WHEREAS, the building of the causeway was an entirely local project which was undertaken by the 25,000 people of Glynn County without state or federal aid; and

WHEREAS, during his role as city manager, Mr. Torras oversaw the development of the Howard Coffin Recreation Center, the Edo Miller Ball Park, numerous public boat marinas, and other developments within Brunswick; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming a road in his memory

## **PART VII**

WHEREAS, during her lifetime, Mrs. Beulah Rucker Oliver demonstrated deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia and made exceptional contributions to society; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker set an example for all women with her determination to make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, at the age of 56, Mrs. Rucker earned a degree from Savannah State College, while teaching public and private school, giving music lessons, and making and selling hats; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker opened The Industrial School in Hall County and later opened two schools in Gainesville, one of which was eventually merged with the City of Gainesville School District in the 1950s; and



WHEREAS, a dedicated educator and philanthropist, Mrs. Rucker was the first person to receive a Rosenwald Grant for her school, was the first woman to establish a school in Gainesville, and was the first person to start a Veterans Night School in this state; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker dedicated her entire life to "Light a Torch of Instruction"; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized with the naming of an intersection in her honor.

### **PART VIII**

WHEREAS, Mr. Felton L. Hudson was born on July 19, 1932, and during his lifetime he played a vital role in leadership and demonstrated a deep commitment to the education of Georgia's future leaders; and

WHEREAS, a native of Greensboro, Georgia, Mr. Hudson earned a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and a master's degree from the University of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, he dedicated over 37 years to challenging students in the Greene County Public School System as an educator and served as president of his local chapter of the Georgia Association of Educators; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Hudson was a lifelong member of New Springfield Baptist Church, where he served as chairman of the board of deacons and taught adult Sunday school class for over three decades, and served as a lay leader in the Second Shiloh Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hudson served as president of the Greene County Branch of the NAACP, was a 33rd degree Mason with the Prince Hall Lodge where he served as Worshipful Master, and was a member of the Rotary Club of Greene County; and

WHEREAS, he organized Citizens United for Children, a nonprofit organization devoted to assisting underprivileged children and exposing them to cultural activities; and

WHEREAS, his leadership was invaluable to numerous Greene County organizations, including the Greene County Civic Association, the Greene County Board of Education, and the Greene County Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized by naming a road in his honor.

### **PART IX**

WHEREAS, Friendship Road in Hall County is being widened, and the project will include new realignment for the road; and

WHEREAS, three public hearings were held in the community to inform property owners

along the new realignment project of the name proposal.

#### **PART X**

WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

WHEREAS, United States military veterans have demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice their own personal safety and comfort to ensure the well-being of their fellow man; and

WHEREAS, they have served as guardians of this nation's freedom and liberty and have diligently and conscientiously undergone intensive and rigorous training in order to serve their country with honor and distinction during times of war and peace; and

WHEREAS, it is important that veterans are thanked for their selfless service to this nation and honored for their unyielding commitment to protecting the people and ideals of the United States; and

WHEREAS, veterans embody the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in something greater than themselves, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and sacrifices of these remarkable and distinguished Americans be honored appropriately.

#### **PART XI**

WHEREAS, Reverend Willie Anderson, Sr., was born on January 5, 1924, and during his lifetime, he played a vital role in leadership and demonstrated a deep commitment to the citizens of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, a native of Liberty County, Georgia, Reverend Anderson was educated in the Liberty County School System and served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, he dedicated 32 years to Fort Stewart as a Class A Diesel Engine Mechanic and served as the first president of the Parent Teachers Association of Riceboro Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Reverend Anderson pastored three churches during a span of 22 years, and he served as chairperson for the Georgia General Assembly of the Church of God; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Anderson served as president of the Liberty County NAACP for several years and was honored with the organization's Guiding Light Award in 1960; and

WHEREAS, a community leader, Reverend Anderson served as a county commissioner for Liberty County and board member of the Coastal Georgia Area Community Action, Inc.; and



WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized by naming an interchange and bridge in his honor.

## **PART XII**

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Senior Patrol Officer Gail Denise Thomas on January 24, 2012, when she was killed by a drunk driver while responding to a traffic accident; and

WHEREAS, SPO Thomas was born on December 22, 1965, in Atlanta, Georgia, the beloved daughter of Juliet Mack Thomas and Early Thomas; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Atlanta's S.H. Archer High School and Georgia Military College, SPO Thomas worked for the Atlanta Police Department as a 911 dispatch operator for five years before she attended the H.T. Jenkins Atlanta Police Academy, where she graduated among the top students in her class; and

WHEREAS, SPO Thomas served as a police officer in Atlanta's Zone 5 and was a dedicated member of the force's honor guard and Red Dog Unit prior to her appointment as a Senior Patrol Officer, where she served as a field training officer for new recruits; and

WHEREAS, she was an adoring mother to her daughter, Jasmine Jay Sherman, who made her proud each and every day; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized with the naming of an interchange in her memory.

## **PART XIII**

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray Daugharty was born on June 8, 1902, and spent a majority of his life in Fargo, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daugharty worked in the forestry industry his entire life, and at one time, he and his brother were considered to be the largest producers of cypress crossties in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, at the age of 18, while attempting to deliver a load of sugar to a local whiskey still, Mr. Daugherty's mules refused to cross a rickety bridge over a local creek; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daugharty decided to detour through the creek, and his wagon flooded, dumping the 500 pounds of sugar into what is now known as Sweetwater Creek; and

WHEREAS, a respected citizen of Fargo, Mr. Daugharty was a county leader as a Clinch County Commissioner and was a faithful member of the local Methodist church; and

WHEREAS, he was a devoted husband to his wife, Wilma Ellington, and was a loving father to his children, Glenice Fogg, Willena Drewe, and George Ray Daugharty, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized with the naming of a bridge in his honor.

#### **PART XIV**

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Mr. John Charles Birdine, Jr., played a vital role in leadership and demonstrated that he was truly a man of great courage, determination, and passion; and

WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States military, sustained disabling injuries after two tours of duty in Vietnam, and was recognized with the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and Vietnam service and campaign medals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Birdine served with the National Black Men's Health Network, the Zoning Review Board of the City of Atlanta, the Price Economic Opportunity Atlanta, the Black Family Project, the Metro Atlanta Kwanza Committee, the Poole Creek Neighborhood Relocation Committee, and Foxhead Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance were instrumental as chairman of Atlanta's Neighborhood Planning Unit Z and he was recognized with awards from the International Register of Profiles, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and Cleveland Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith who was loyal to country and prideful of his African American heritage, Mr. Birdine was an active member of Travelers Rest Baptist Church, the Dodd-Sterling Methodist Church, the Neighborhood Justice Center, Gate City Heritage House, the Disabled American Veterans Association, the NAACP, and the Association for the Studies of Classical African Civilization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Birdine was largely responsible for the recovery and restoration of a slave graveyard containing approximately 300 to 400 unmarked graves directly under the Cleveland Avenue Bridge over Interstate 75 in Fulton County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Birdine was the loving husband of Thelma Loretta L. Birdine, the proud father of five children, and a doting grandfather to ten grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized by naming a bridge in his honor.



#### **PART XV**

WHEREAS, the Smoky Mountains are the most visited mountains in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Highway 411 is a historic and important road for commerce and is a major road for tourism; and

WHEREAS, Highway 411 takes drivers through picturesque communities and a friendly region that is the gateway to the Smoky Mountains.

#### **PART XVI**

WHEREAS, Eurith Dickson "Ed" Rivers has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital role he played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rivers served in both chambers of the General Assembly, adeptly representing the interests of his constituents in Lanier County; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Georgia State Senate, Governor Rivers demonstrated invaluable leadership and was elected to serve as President Pro Tempore by his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, he was elected Governor by the citizens of Georgia in 1936 and won reelection in 1939; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rivers served the State of Georgia with honor and distinction, and his vision and unyielding commitment set the standard for public service; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming a road in his memory.

#### **PART XVII**

WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jim McClelland, Sr., lived his entire life in Cook County, Georgia, and during his lifetime he demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice his own personal safety and comfort to ensure the well-being of his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States 31st Infantry Regiment during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Mr. McClelland was taken captive by Japanese forces and held as a prisoner of war for three years, four months, and 19 days, surviving the Bataan Death March; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance were invaluable to the citizens of Cook County as a member of the Lenox City Council for eight years; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized by naming a bridge in his honor.

#### **PART XVIII**

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost a visionary, a gentleman, and a generous and kind man with the passing of Mr. Pierce Lovett Cline on November 3, 2012; and

WHEREAS, a community leader, Mr. Cline played a large role in establishing a campus of Georgia Perimeter College in Newton County; and

WHEREAS, through his real estate development company, Cline Land Company, Mr. Cline was responsible for developing several high quality neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cline was an avid supporter of Project Adventure, an education program for troubled teens, and his work has changed the lives of countless children in Newton County and throughout Georgia; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Oxford College, Mr. Cline's legacy was recognized with the school's lifetime achievement award, the R. Carl Chandler Award; and

WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his supportive wife, Margie, for 54 wonderful years and was blessed with three remarkable children, Carol, Charles, and Paul, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cline's significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this state earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and service of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

#### **PART XIX**

WHEREAS, Melvin Ernest Thompson was born on May 1, 1903, in Millen, Georgia, the beloved son of Eva Inez Edenfield Thompson and Henry J. Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Governor Thompson earned a bachelor's degree from Emory University and a master's degree from the University of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, he began his career in the field of education as a principal and coach at Emanuel County Institute, served as superintendent for the Hawkinsville Public School System, worked as a state school supervisor and an assistant state superintendent of schools, and served as secretary of the Executive Department under Governor Ellis Arnall; and



WHEREAS, after a two-year term as the state revenue commissioner, Governor Thompson was elected to this state's highest office in 1947; and

WHEREAS, during Governor Thompson's tenure as governor, the University of Georgia's veterinary medical school and the Georgia Institute of Technology's engineering building were constructed, educators received salary increases, and the state purchased Jekyll Island, which was turned into a successful, year-round public resort; and

WHEREAS, Governor Thompson was instrumental in the success of the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County, where his leadership as a founding member of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Industrial Authority spearheaded much of the urban development and planning for Valdosta and the surrounding areas, including the Azalea City Industrial Park; and

WHEREAS, a community leader and advocate, Governor Thompson served as chairman of the Education Committee for the Trade School Development Committee, president of the Valdosta Rotary Club, and a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, WOW, Civitan, and Shriners; and

WHEREAS, Governor Thompson was united in love and marriage to his wife, Ann Newton Thompson, and he was blessed with a remarkable son, Melvin Ernest Thompson, Jr., and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming a road in his memory.

## **PART XX**

WHEREAS, South Georgia is one of the few areas remaining in the United States where there are miles of rural landscape, historic small towns, and abundant agricultural operations; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of agri-tourism represents a readily available and effective tool with which to spur economic development; and

WHEREAS, the portions of highways to be included in Georgia Grown Trail: 37 wind through miles of centennial and family owned farms; pristine hunting plantations and unique lodging; u-pick farms, farm stands, and hands-on educational farm experiences; farm to table restaurants and establishments dedicated to preserving and sharing local recipes and traditions; and time-honored and progressive crops and farming techniques; and

WHEREAS, dedication of this route as a scenic highway will promote economic well-being through agri-tourism.

## **PART XXI**

WHEREAS, William Everett Bennett was born and raised in Forsyth County and graduated from Cumming High School; and

WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army as an instructor in the Officers School at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett served as chairman of the board for LEADER, a local teen safe driving education organization, as well as the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Forsyth County, and he was a program advocate for the Forsyth County Certified Literacy Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett served on the Georgia Baptist Healthcare System Board of Directors, where he was instrumental in the purchase of the old Lakeside Hospital and its conversion to Baptist North Hospital; on the board of visitors for Georgia Baptist College of Nursing at Mercer University; and on the Hawaii Baptist Academy Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett continued in generous service to the community by providing a complimentary meeting space located on the campus of Baptist Medical Center, now known as Northside Hospital-Forsyth, and the Everett and Teresa Bennett Education Center is host to countless assemblies that benefit the community in ways beyond measure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett championed and advocated for the ongoing expansion of the health care architecture in Forsyth County through his service on the Northside Hospital Foundation Board, and his legacy as a staunch supporter for bringing quality health care services to Forsyth County will benefit the citizens of that region for generations; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Rotary Club of Johns Creek and received numerous honors, including the Lee Arrendale Award and being named a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Will Watt Fellow, and a Hue Thomas Fellow; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Bennett was an active member of Johns Creek Baptist Church where he served as a deacon emeritus; and

WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his family and friends were admired by others; and

WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he made this world a better place in which to live; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Bennett will long be remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him; and



WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to dedicate the intersection of Georgia Route 400 and State Route 141 in Forsyth County as the William Everett Bennett Memorial Interchange as an appropriate tribute to this outstanding Georgian.

## **PART XXII**

WHEREAS, Mr. William E. "Billy" Hubbard has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hubbard dedicated 36 years to Norfolk Southern Railway Company in Gordon, Georgia, and rose to the rank of Track Supervisor and Track Inspector; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960's, Mr. Hubbard helped supervise the installation of long heavy welded track for coal movement between Birmingham, Alabama, and Georgia Power's Lake Sinclair Power Plant; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in assisting negotiations between the railroad and the City of Gordon on several projects and assisted the city in obtaining a copy of an original photograph of the first president of the Central Georgia Railroad and the city's namesake, William Washington Gordon, which was used in painting two portraits that hang in city buildings; and

WHEREAS, an active community leader, Mr. Hubbard served two terms with the Ivey City Council, is a 32 degree Mason with Gordon Mason Lodge # 240, and is a member of Gordon United Methodist Church and life member of American Railway Engineering; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized with the naming of two bridges in his honor.

## **PART XXIII**

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and with the passing of Mr. K.S. "Bubba" Nobles, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, a native of Twiggs County, Georgia, Mr. Nobles was a lifelong farmer and known around town as an unofficial veterinarian, often called upon by neighbors to help birth livestock or assist sick or injured animals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles also served as a county school bus driver for many years and ran a barbershop at night and on weekends, which was known as a great gathering place for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to Lois T. Nobles for 60 wonderful years and was the beloved father of nine remarkable children; and

WHEREAS, a leader of his community, Mr. Nobles worked on campaigns of many local candidates, served on the Georgia Eighth Congressional District Advisory

Council, was on the Board of Trustees at Twiggs Academy, and served as president of the Democratic Party of Twiggs County for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be recognized with the naming of a bridge in his honor.

#### **PART XXIV**

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones Daniel Brooks, Mr. James Joe Brooks, and Mr. Freeman Charles Brooks have long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital role that they have played in leadership and their deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Brooks brothers were born to James Joe Brooks, Sr., and Lessie Jones Brooks in Gordon, Georgia, where they have continued to live their entire lives; and

WHEREAS, the Brooks brothers dedicated a total of 111 years to the Central of Georgia, the Southern, and the Norfolk Southern Railway companies, each rising to the position of engineer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James Joe Brooks, Jr., known as J.J. Brooks, was the first Brooks brother to enter the railroad business, working from 1937 to 1981; and

WHEREAS, J.J. Brooks served as sergeant and engineer with the Railroad Battalion in India during World War II and was the last engineer for the famous passenger train the Nancy Hanks, which traveled from Savannah to Atlanta and back on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones Daniel Brooks, known as J.D. Brooks, worked from 1940 to 1974, starting with his first job shoveling coal on a steam locomotive and serving as an engineer with the Railroad Battalion in France during World War II, for which he received several honors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman Charles Brooks, known as F.C. Brooks, worked from 1950 to 1983, and saved a man's life in Griswoldville, Georgia, after applying the emergency brake and crawling onto the front step of the moving train to wave the man to safety; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of these distinguished Georgians be recognized with the naming of two bridges in their honor.

#### **PART XXV**

WHEREAS, Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne Grant Purcell are natives of Northeast Georgia and attended North Georgia College; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Purcell served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army for over 30 years and has been recognized with numerous decorations for his service and heroism, including the Silver Star with Oak leaf



Cluster, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, after his helicopter was shot down during a combat tour in Vietnam, Colonel Purcell was captured by the Viet Cong and spent 62 months as a prisoner of war, making him the highest ranking Army P.O.W. held in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, during Colonel Purcell's captivity, Mrs. Purcell worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the plight of American missing and captive soldiers and became a founding member of the National League of Families of Prisoners of War and Men Missing in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her unwavering service to missing and captive service personnel, all while raising the couple's five children, Mrs. Purcell was honored as Fort Benning's Military Wife of the Year in 1971; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to Georgia and the conclusion of his military career, Colonel Purcell continued to serve his community and this state as a Representative for the Georgia General Assembly, a member of the Georgia State Veterans Services Board, a member of the board of directors for the Habersham County Chamber of Commerce, and a deacon for Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, this amazing and inspiring couple coauthored a book, *Love and Duty*, which recounts their experiences during the Vietnam War, and they have appeared on numerous radio and television talk shows to share their story of love, faith, and courage; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of these distinguished Georgians be appropriately recognized.

## **PART XXVI**

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its most promising young citizens with the tragic passing of Leanna Nicole Craft on November 23, 1997; and

WHEREAS, Leanna was born on September 23, 1981, in Thomaston, Georgia, and was the beloved daughter of William and Alida Craft and cherished sister of Melissa Beth Craft; and

WHEREAS, a leader at Upson-Lee High School, Leanna served as a student council representative and was a member of the National Honor Society, the Beta Club, the Y-Club, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and

WHEREAS, Leanna was a dedicated and talented athlete, earning letters as a member of both the softball team and tennis team, and lighting up the dance floor as a member of the U-L Knights Dance Line; and

WHEREAS, Leanna cared about her church and community, being selected for the 1998 class of Youth Leadership Upson, serving as a Little Sister for the Junior Miss Pageant, and participating in local summer mission trips; and

WHEREAS, a generous and passionate young woman, Leanna will long be remembered for her love of family and friendship, and this loyal daughter, sister, and friend is deserving of an intersection named in her honor.

#### **PART XXVII**

WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

WHEREAS, Major W. David Gray was raised in Walton County, Georgia, and was a 1992 graduate of Loganville High School; and

WHEREAS, Major Gray served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Air Force and was a member of the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron; and

WHEREAS, he was stationed in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom when he was killed by a suicide bomb in the Kunar province; and

WHEREAS, Major Gray demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting democracy and gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the well-being of his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, it is important that fallen soldiers are thanked for their selfless service to this nation and honored for their unyielding commitment to protecting the people and ideals of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Major Gray embodied the spirit of service and found meaning in something greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the sacrifice of this remarkable and distinguished American be honored appropriately.

#### **PART XXVIII**

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Mr. Pleasant Eugene Holt on April 18, 1908; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt was the town marshall of Villa Rica and was the father of seven children; and

WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer's life was cut short after he was shot attempting to arrest a drunk man who was shooting in the streets of Villa Rica; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties, and it is only fitting and proper that a road be dedicated in his memory.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of Ga. 52 in Lumpkin County from Ga. 115 to the Hall County line is dedicated as the Ralph A. Pierce Memorial Highway.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of U.S. Highway 19 and Cavender Creek Road in Lumpkin County is dedicated as the Judge William Jeffrey Lowe Memorial Intersection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 29 over the train tracks near Roosevelt Highway and Welcome All Road in Fulton County is dedicated as the Dekai Amonrasi Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Interstate 75 in Lowndes County from the West Hill Avenue exit to the North Valdosta Road exit is dedicated as the Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson Memorial Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Dietz Road in Catoosa County is dedicated as the Sergeant John A. Franklin Memorial Intersection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that GA25-Spur E. from Brunswick to St. Simons Island in Glynn County is dedicated as the F.J. Torras Causeway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Highway 129 and Athens Street in Hall County is dedicated as the Beulah Rucker Oliver Memorial Intersection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Veazey Road over Interstate 20 in Greene County is dedicated as the Felton L. Hudson Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 347 from Interstate 985 East to the Old Winder Highway is dedicated as the Lanier Islands Parkway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that this body hereby joins in honoring military veterans and dedicates the interchange of I-475 and Thomaston Road in Macon-Bibb County as Veterans of All Wars Interchange.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the interchange and bridge at Interstate 95 over U.S. Highway 17 at South New Port Road in Liberty County is dedicated as the Reverend Willie Anderson, Sr., Memorial Interchange.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the interchange at Interstate 75 and Exit 251 in Fulton County is dedicated as the Senior Patrol Officer Gail Denise Thomas Memorial Interchange.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Ga. 177 over Sweetwater Creek between Fargo and Stephen Foster State Park in Clinch County is dedicated as the Ray Daugharty Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Cleveland Avenue over Interstate 75 in Fulton County is dedicated as the John Charles Birdine, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of U.S. 411 from Interstate 75 to the Murray County line is dedicated as the Pathway to the Smokies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 122 in Lanier County that runs beside Banks Lake from the City of Lakeland to the Lowndes County line is dedicated as the Governor Eurith Dickson "Ed" Rivers Memorial Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on County Road 246 Kinard Bridge Road over Interstate 75 in Cook County is dedicated as the Jim McClelland, Sr., POW Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 11 over Interstate 20 in Newton County is dedicated as the Pierce Lovett Cline Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Interstate 75 in Lowndes County from the West Hill Avenue exit to the North Valdosta Road exit is dedicated as the Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson Memorial Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 37 from Homerville to the Alabama state line and the portion of State Route 76 from Nashville in Berrien County to the Florida state line in Brooks County are dedicated as the Georgia Grown Trail: 37.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Georgia Route 400 and State Route 141 in Forsyth County is dedicated as the William Everett Bennett Memorial Interchange.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the eastbound and westbound bridges on the Fall Line Freeway at NeSmith Road between the City of Ivey and U.S. 441 in Wilkinson County are dedicated as the William E. "Billy" Hubbard Bridges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Ga. 358 over Interstate 16 in Twiggs County is dedicated as the K.S. "Bubba" Nobles, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the eastbound and westbound bridges on the Fall Line Freeway over the railroad, located between Highway 18 and Highway 57 in Wilkinson County, are dedicated as the Brooks Brothers' Bridges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that State Route 197 in Habersham County from mile marker 5 to milepost 16.84 is dedicated as the Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne Purcell Highway.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Highway 42 and Highway 74 in Monroe County is dedicated as the Leanna Nicole Craft Memorial Intersection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Georgia Highway 20 in Walton County from its intersection with Highway 78 in Loganville to the Rockdale County line is dedicated as the Major W. David Gray Memorial Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 101 in Paulding County from the Paulding/Carroll county line to State Route 120 is dedicated as the Pleasant Eugene Holt Memorial 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 Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation; to Mr. William E. "Billy" Hubbard; to Mr. Jones Daniel Brooks, Mr. James Joe Brooks, and Mr. Freeman Charles Brooks; to Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne Grant Purcell; and to the families of Mr. Ralph A. Pierce, Judge William Jeffrey Lowe, Mr. Dekai Amonrasi, Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson, Sergeant John A. Franklin, Mr. Fernando Joseph Torras, Mrs. Beulah Rucker Oliver, Mr. Felton L. Hudson, Reverend Willie Anderson, Sr., Senior Patrol Officer Gail Denise Thomas, Mr. Ray Daugharty, Mr. John Charles Birdine, Jr., Governor Eurith Dickson "Ed" Rivers, Mr. Jim McClelland, Sr., Mr. Pierce Lovett Cline, Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson, Mr. William Everett Bennett, Mr. K.S. "Bubba" Nobles, Jr., Leanna Nicole Craft, Major W. David Gray, and Mr. Pleasant Eugene Holt.

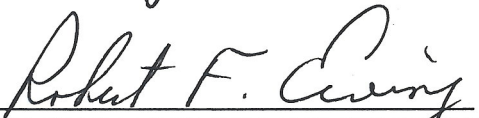
Senate Resolution 293

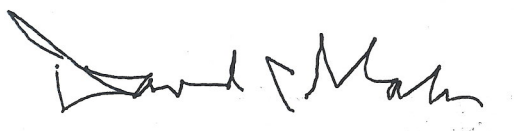
By: Senator Gooch of the 51st


Adopted in the Senate March 28, 2013

Adopted in the House March 28, 2013

  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

  
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

  
SENATOR, DISTRICT 51st