

Senate Resolution 293

By: Senator Gooch of the 51st

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

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

2 **PART I**

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 **PART II**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 **PART III**

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

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

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

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

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

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

55 **PART IV**

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

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

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

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

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

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

74 WHEREAS, a community leader and advocate, Governor Thompson served as chairman of
75 the Education Committee for the Trade School Development Committee, president of the

76 Valdosta Rotary Club, and a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, WOW, Civitan,
77 and Shriners; and

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

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

84 **PART V**

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

88 WHEREAS, Sergeant John A. Franklin was born on January 25, 1942, and served as a
89 guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army with C. Company
90 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division; and

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

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

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

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

101 **PART VI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

125 **PART VII**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

143 **PART VIII**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

166 **PART IX**

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

169 WHEREAS, three public hearings were held in the community to inform property owners
170 along the new realignment project of the name proposal.

171 **PART X**

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

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

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

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

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

188 **PART XI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

207 **PART XII**

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

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

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

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

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

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

225 **PART XIII**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

241 **PART XIV**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

269

270

PART XV

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

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

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

276

PART XVI

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

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

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

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

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

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

292

PART XVII

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

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

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

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

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

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

309

PART XVIII

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

330 **PART XIX**

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

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

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

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

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

345 WHEREAS, Governor Thompson was instrumental in the success of the City of Valdosta
346 and Lowndes County, where his leadership as a founding member of the Valdosta-Lowndes

347 County Industrial Authority spearheaded much of the urban development and planning for
348 Valdosta and the surrounding areas, including the Azalea City Industrial Park; and

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

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

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

359 **PART XX**

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

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

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

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

372 **PART XXI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

410 **PART XXII**

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

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

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

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

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

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

429 **PART XXIII**

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

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

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

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

440 WHEREAS, a leader of his community, Mr. Nobles worked on campaigns of many local
441 candidates, served on the Georgia Eighth Congressional District Advisory Council, was on
442 the Board of Trustees at Twiggs Academy, and served as president of the Democratic Party
443 of Twiggs County for a number of years; and

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

446 **PART XXIV**

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

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

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

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

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

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

465 WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman Charles Brooks, known as F.C. Brooks, worked from 1950 to
466 1983, and saved a man's life in Griswoldville, Georgia, after applying the emergency brake
467 and crawling onto the front step of the moving train to wave the man to safety; and

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

470 **PART XXV**

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

473 WHEREAS, Colonel Purcell served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with
474 the United States Army for over 30 years and has been recognized with numerous
475 decorations for his service and heroism, including the Silver Star with Oak leaf Cluster, the
476 Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the
477 Purple Heart; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

498

PART XXVI

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

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

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

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

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

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

515 **PART XXVII**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

533 **PART XXVIII**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

582 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of U.S. 411 from Interstate
583 75 to the Murray County line is dedicated as the Pathway to the Smokies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

605 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Ga. 358 over Interstate
606 16 in Twiggs County is dedicated as the K.S. "Bubba" Nobles, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

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

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

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

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

619 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 101 in Paulding
620 County from the Paulding/Carroll county line to State Route 120 is dedicated as the Pleasant
621 Eugene Holt Memorial Highway.

622 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
623 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this
624 resolution.

625 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
626 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation; to Mr.
627 William E. "Billy" Hubbard; to Mr. Jones Daniel Brooks, Mr. James Joe Brooks, and Mr.
628 Freeman Charles Brooks; to Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne Grant Purcell; and to the
629 families of Mr. Ralph A. Pierce, Judge William Jeffrey Lowe, Mr. Dekai Amonrasi,
630 Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson, Sergeant John A. Franklin, Mr. Fernando Joseph Torras,
631 Mrs. Beulah Rucker Oliver, Mr. Felton L. Hudson, Reverend Willie Anderson, Sr., Senior
632 Patrol Officer Gail Denise Thomas, Mr. Ray Daugharty, Mr. John Charles Birdine, Jr.,
633 Governor Eurith Dickson "Ed" Rivers, Mr. Jim McClelland, Sr., Mr. Pierce Lovett Cline,
634 Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson, Mr. William Everett Bennett, Mr. K.S. "Bubba" Nobles,
635 Jr., Leanna Nicole Craft, Major W. David Gray, and Mr. Pleasant Eugene Holt.