

House Resolution 974

By: Representatives Morris of the 155th and Harbin of the 113th

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating U.S. Highway 221 within the limits of the City of Mt. Vernon, Georgia, as the
2 J. M. Fountain Highway; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, J. M. Fountain was born on March 5, 1924, and was a life-long resident of the
4 City of Mt. Vernon; and

5 WHEREAS, he was a decorated veteran of the United States Army having served as a
6 member of the 27th Infantry in the Philippines and Japan during World War II, receiving
7 three bronze stars and numerous other campaign awards; and

8 WHEREAS, he is best known for having served as the mayor of Mt. Vernon from 1967 until
9 his recent death; and

10 WHEREAS, during his 35-year tenure of service as mayor, he restored the city's financial
11 stability to the point where the citizens of Mt. Vernon do not pay city taxes; and

12 WHEREAS, in order to help conserve local funds, Mayor Fountain wore many hats,
13 including at times assuming responsibility for police duties, water works services, road
14 maintenance, and service as city judge, among many others; and

15 WHEREAS, his efforts were instrumental in obtaining a grant to build the Montgomery
16 County Senior Citizens Center; and

17 WHEREAS, for 25 years, he was active in supporting the Montgomery County Board of
18 Health, having helped obtain funds for a new health department building; and

19 WHEREAS, he served on the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Development Center for
20 over 30 years and was instrumental in helping to locate the Montgomery-Wheeler Mental
21 Retardation Service Center in Mt. Vernon; and

1 WHEREAS, he established the Mt. Vernon Recreational Department many years ago in the
2 park which bears his name; and

3 WHEREAS, he also helped to obtain housing for residents through the Mt. Vernon Housing
4 Authority; and

5 WHEREAS, his strong leadership and unwavering support for equality for all citizens were
6 instrumental in assuring a peaceful transition during the turbulent years of the Civil Rights
7 Movement; and

8 WHEREAS, he was a retired local farmer as well as a school bus driver for the Montgomery
9 County School System; and

10 WHEREAS, he served as a Sunday School teacher and deacon at the First Baptist Church
11 of Mt. Vernon; and

12 WHEREAS, he was the devoted husband of Elise O'Quinn Fountain for over 57 years and
13 was the beloved father of seven children, grandfather of 17 grandchildren, and great-
14 grandfather of nine.

15 WHEREAS, he loved the outdoors of Montgomery County, especially the woods and swamp
16 lands along the Oconee River, and until his death, he was an avid hunter of wild game and
17 spent many peaceful late evenings feeding and catching the fish in his pond.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 GEORGIA that the members of this body honor the life of J. M. Fountain and express their
20 immense appreciation and gratitude for his lifetime of invaluable service and dedication to
21 his fellow citizens.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that portion of U.S. Highway 221 within the city limits
23 of Mt. Vernon in Montgomery County shall be designated the J. M. Fountain Highway.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
25 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs so designating such highway.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
2 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of J. M. Fountain
3 and the Department of Transportation.