

## House Resolution 1286

By: Representatives Black of the 178<sup>th</sup> and Borders of the 177<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Designating the Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels Memorial Highway; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels was born on August 31, 1975, in Gainesville,  
3 Florida, and was the son of Eldridge Ray Runnels and Hester Cross Runnels; and
- 4 WHEREAS, his family moved to Morven, Georgia when he was eight years old; and
- 5 WHEREAS, following his graduation from Brooks County High School in 1993, he enlisted  
6 in the United States Marine Corps to serve the country which he so dearly loved; and
- 7 WHEREAS, in four short years of military service he became a qualified air crew member  
8 and crew chief, amassed 393 flight hours, and exemplified the finest qualities of a Marine;  
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, he served two years on the Experimental Aircraft Detachment of the  
11 Presidential Support Squadron, HMX1, and he was honored with the award of two Navy and  
12 Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals,  
13 and two Good Conduct Medals; and
- 14 WHEREAS, he was the devoted husband of Mrs. Karen Runnels, the father of a wonderful  
15 daughter, Dakota Runnels, and a loving son; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he was a member of Morven Baptist Church and was a friend to everyone who  
17 had the opportunity to know him; and
- 18 WHEREAS, on December 11, 2000, Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels lost his life in the service  
19 of his country as the result of an aircraft crash during a night-training mission.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 GEORGIA that, in memory of the service of Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels to the City of  
3 Morven, Brooks County, and the State of Georgia, State Highway 76 in the corporate limits  
4 of the City of Morven is designated the Staff Sgt. Avely W. Runnels Memorial Highway.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
6 directed to place and maintain appropriate markers or signs designating the Staff Sgt. Avely  
7 W. Runnels Memorial Highway.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
9 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Staff Sgt.  
10 Avely W. Runnels and to the commissioner of transportation.