

Senate Resolution 660

By: Senator Beatty of the 47th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the Floyd Hoard Memorial Highway; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Floyd Hoard, a native of Fayette County, married Imogene Westmoreland and
3 moved to her native Jackson County, where he studied law, was admitted to the bar and
4 opened a law practice in Jefferson, and in 1964 he became Solicitor General, a position now
5 called District Attorney, of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, which included Jackson, Banks,
6 and Barrow counties; and

7 WHEREAS, in those days, Jackson County was infested with crime, particularly by a loose
8 coalition of gangsters known as the Dixie Mafia, and Mr. Hoard became a crusader,
9 beginning with a raid on a car theft operation just days after he took office; and

10 WHEREAS, he took the rampant crime in his community, and his sworn duty to eliminate
11 that crime, to heart, writing in an essay found after his death, "We want in some way to ease
12 our consciences and to make amends. We have learned our lesson in crime . . . We pledge
13 activity for inactivity, courage for fear. . ."; and

14 WHEREAS, on Monday morning, August 7, 1967, at 7:25, Mr. Hoard walked out of the
15 front door of the family home and started his car. An explosion caused by six to 12 sticks of
16 dynamite, connected to the car's electrical system, destroyed the car, mortally wounding Mr.
17 Hoard, and he died as his young son and daughter attempted to save him; and

18 WHEREAS, horrified at his death and inspired by his conviction and courage, state and local
19 officials, led by Governor Lester Maddox, rose up and confronted crime in the area. Five
20 men were convicted of the crime, and the Dixie Mafia was broken; and

21 WHEREAS, the words said at his funeral sum up his life and sacrifice: "He made his
22 decision, he had counted the cost, and yesterday he paid the full price." Floyd Hoard gave

1 the last full measure to make his community and this state a safer, better place, and it is only
2 proper that such a man be honored in his own community.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 GEORGIA that the portion of Georgia Highway 335 between the corporate limits of the City
5 of Jefferson and the City of Nicholson be designated as the Floyd Hoard Memorial Highway.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
7 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs designating the Floyd Hoard Memorial
8 Highway.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
10 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Floyd Hoard.