

House Resolution 185

By: Representative James of the 140th

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating a portion of State Highway 26 lying within the city limits of the City of
2 Montezuma as "Dennis Fulton Douglass Highway"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dennis Fulton Douglass was born on February 1, 1860, in Augusta, Georgia,
4 to parents who were slaves and attended Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in
5 Hampton, Virginia, and Winsted College in Winsted, Connecticut, supporting himself by
6 working at odd jobs; and

7 WHEREAS, upon completion of his education, he elected to return to the South to work for
8 the betterment of his people and began teaching at Schofield Normal School in Aiken, South
9 Carolina. He later taught at Central College in Macon, Georgia, and was the principal of
10 schools in Hawkinsville, Georgia, and Jeffersonville, Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, he saw the value of the published word and began a lifetime avocation in
12 publishing working with a newspaper in Augusta, Georgia. While teaching at Central
13 College, he also managed the college's printing concern and, at various times in his life, was
14 the editor of the Journal of Progress, The People's Defense, and The Baptist Truth; and

15 WHEREAS, he went to Montezuma, Georgia, in 1906 as principal of the Montezuma Public
16 School at a time of turmoil for the school. He worked diligently for the improvement of the
17 school and quickly took it from an ungraded, two classroom school to a graded school with
18 four classrooms. He expanded the curriculum to include agriculture and home economics.
19 Though the school had but seven grades, its graduates who went on to high school were
20 admitted into the ninth grade; and

21 WHEREAS, during his lifetime, the education of his race was generally thought unnecessary
22 and was frequently discouraged by the white leadership. However, he persisted steadfastly
23 in his endeavors. Everything was done with the barest of resources. He argued forcefully
24 for his causes, maintained a life of personal dignity, and lived a life of such example that he

1 won the respect and cooperation of all. He was a man before his time, an advocate of civil
2 rights through nonviolent intervention; and

3 WHEREAS, he espoused the belief that the betterment of his race was best achieved by
4 improving the individual, self-help, and religion. He consistently preached and lived as an
5 example of these principles. He was active in his church as a writer, editor, and Sunday
6 school teacher. He had a large truck garden which he used to demonstrate principles of
7 agriculture and the value of self-help. He placed great emphasis upon ethics, good manners,
8 cleanliness, and the use of proper English; and

9 WHEREAS, he died on March 13, 1929, leaving a legacy of aspiration, accomplishment, and
10 example, a friend to all and greatly loved by the community. His greatest achievement came
11 after his death when his students and others who followed his principles peacefully forged
12 Montezuma into a city where all are respected and there is opportunity for all to succeed; and

13 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize and memorialize the achievements of Dennis
14 Fulton Douglass.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 GEORGIA that the members of this body recognize the achievements and work of Dennis
17 Fulton Douglass and designate the portion of State Highway 26 from the eastern city limits
18 of the City of Montezuma to the western city limits as the "Dennis Fulton Douglass
19 Highway."

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

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Dennis Fulton
24 Douglass.