

House Resolution 413 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representative Hanner of the 148th

A RESOLUTION

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

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, the Johnson family of Webster County has owned land and resided in the area
4 of Kinchafoonee Creek in Webster County for almost a century; and

5 WHEREAS, when SR 45 was constructed, the Johnson family gave the state approximately
6 two miles of right of way so that the state could build the road; and

7 WHEREAS, dedicating the bridge on SR 45 that spans the Kinchafoonee Creek in Webster
8 County in honor of Warren V. Johnson will recognize the contribution made by this family
9 to the state and the significance of this family in the life of its community.

10 **PART II**

11 WHEREAS, Harry H. Eason was born on August 15, 1915, and he spent his career as a
12 superintendent for H.G. Smith Construction Company building bridges throughout south
13 Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1956, he moved his family to Tifton, where his company had been awarded
15 the contract to construct bridges for Interstate Highway 75 from Tifton to Ashburn, and Mr.
16 Eason was assigned the task of supervising the construction of those bridges; and

17 WHEREAS, he was known to work as hard as any of his crew in the construction project and
18 each of the bridges was constructed on time and the work was approved without correction;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, many of the bridges he built were of a complicated design which were even
21 more difficult to construct in the days before computers; and

1 WHEREAS, it is only fitting that a bridge be named for such a renowned bridge builder as
2 Mr. Harry H. Eason.

3 **PART III**

4 WHEREAS, on a day in the 1880s, at least 15 years before the Wright Brothers' famous
5 flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Micajah Clark Dyer rode his "apparatus for navigating
6 the air" — the term airplane would not be coined for decades — down a slip on Rattlesnake
7 Mountain in Union County, Georgia, and flew low over a meadow on his farm in the
8 Choestoe community near Blairsville; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer, who was born in South Carolina on July 23, 1822, and who farmed
10 in Union County, Georgia, to support his large family, received his only formal education
11 in a one-room school, but despite this limitation developed a reputation as a true genius
12 because of his many inventions; and

13 WHEREAS, most of Mr. Dyer's inventions have been lost in the veil of time, but it is known
14 that he equipped his house with running water, built an efficient water-powered grist mill,
15 and invented a "perpetual motion" machine that could power devices; but his most famous
16 invention was his flying machine, for which he was awarded a patent in September, 1874,
17 and which he continued to improve and refine until his death on January 26, 1891; and

18 WHEREAS, stories of his flying machine were kept alive through Dyer family oral tradition
19 until 2004, when, thanks to the modern invention of the Internet, family members were able
20 to identify the 1874 patent and obtain a copy, proof that the machine had, in fact, been built
21 and that sophisticated plans had been filed with the United States Patent Office, although the
22 flight from Rattlesnake Mountain over the meadow remains unverified local lore; and

23 WHEREAS, although the flying machine invented in the remote North Georgia mountains
24 never made it into the history books, family history indicates that Mr. Dyer's widow, Morena
25 Owenby Dyer, sold the machine and plans to the Redwine Brothers in Atlanta, who, in turn,
26 sold them to the Wright Brothers of Ohio, so it is probable that Micajah Clark Dyer did,
27 indirectly, contribute to the first human flight.

28 **PART IV**

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
30 GEORGIA that the bridge on SR 45 that spans the Kinchafoonee Creek in Webster County

1 is dedicated as the Warren V. Johnson Bridge, and the Department of Transportation is
2 authorized and directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs to identifying the bridge.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge on Chula Brookfield Road over Interstate
4 Highway 75 in Turner County, Georgia, is hereby dedicated as the Harry H. Eason Bridge
5 in honor of this distinguished Georgian, and the Department of Transportation is authorized
6 and directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs so dedicating the bridge.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of Georgia Highway 180 in Union County
8 from the intersection with US Highway 129 to the Towns County line be dedicated the
9 Micajah Clark Dyer Parkway, and the Department of Transportation is authorized and
10 directed to place and maintain appropriate markers designating the Micajah Clark Dyer
11 Parkway.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
13 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of
14 Transportation, Warren V. Johnson, Harry H. Eason, and the family of Micajah Clark Dyer.