

The House Committee on Transportation offers the following substitute to SR 1034:

A RESOLUTION

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

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, SGT Mathew Vincent Gibbs was a member of 648th Engineer Battalion of the
4 48th Infantry Brigade of the Georgia National Guard; and

5 WHEREAS, while serving in Baghdad, Iraq, he was killed on August 3, 2005; and

6 WHEREAS, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant posthumously; and

7 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Reagan C. Gibbs, and two daughters, Ariana and
8 Arissa; and

9 WHEREAS, this courageous soldier, who in the spirit of the American patriot, volunteered
10 to confront the dangers, privations, and discomforts of wartime service and in the spirit of
11 humanity strived to keep the peace in Iraq with fortitude and steadfast resolve, making us as
12 a nation truly proud; and

13 WHEREAS, all Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women of our armed
14 forces who risk their lives in the defense of freedom and to secure the blessings of liberty for
15 this nation and other peoples of the world.

16 **PART II**

17 WHEREAS, Major Thomas A. Duckett, a citizen of Ringgold, Catoosa County, Georgia,
18 graduated with honors from the schools of Catoosa County and was active in the Boynton
19 Baptist Church; and

20 WHEREAS, he attended LaGrange College where he excelled in sports and graduated with
21 honors with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry; and

1 WHEREAS, he entered the United States Air Force and attended the Officer Candidate
2 School and flight school as a lieutenant; and

3 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Duckett was recognized for his dependability, outstanding
4 airmanship, and professionalism, which led to his promotion to captain as a pilot and forward
5 air controller while serving in Thailand during the Vietnam War; and

6 WHEREAS, Captain Duckett was shot down over Laos while honorably serving his country
7 in the defense of freedom on December 12, 1970, and later was promoted to the rank of
8 major; and

9 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that Major Duckett be honored in perpetuity for his
10 honorable service and sacrifice.

11 **PART III**

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 GEORGIA that the members of this body offer their sincere condolences to the family and
14 friends of SGT Mathew Vincent Gibbs and dedicate the 17 Mile River Bridge at mile marker
15 7 on SR 206, in Coffee County, as the SGT Mathew Vincent Gibbs Memorial Bridge.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body join in honoring the memory
17 of a great Georgian, Major Thomas A. Duckett, for his honorable service and sacrifice for
18 the people of Georgia and the United States of America and that the Interstate 75 Exit 348
19 Interchange is dedicated as the Major Thomas A. Duckett Interchange.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
21 directed to place and maintain appropriate markers dedicating the road facilities named in
22 this resolution.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
24 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of Transportation, to the
25 family of SGT Mathew Vincent Gibbs, and to the family of Major Thomas A. Duckett.