

## House Resolution 147

By: Representatives Lane of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup>, Parrish of the 156<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 159<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the memory of Coach Erskine "Erk" Russell, expressing regret at his passing, and  
2 designating portions of State Route 26 (U.S. 80) in Bulloch County as the Erk Russell  
3 Highway; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, news of the passing of Coach Erskine "Erk" Russell, late of Statesboro and  
5 Georgia Southern University, is received with deep regret by this body; and

6 WHEREAS, the life led by this distinguished gentleman of 80 years rendered his name dear  
7 to the hearts of his family, his many friends, and fans alike; and

8 WHEREAS, Coach Russell received a bachelor's and master's degree from Auburn  
9 University where he played football, basketball, baseball, and tennis, earning ten varsity  
10 letters, and he remains Auburn's last four-sport letterman; and

11 WHEREAS, in 17 years as defensive coordinator for the University of Georgia, Coach  
12 Russell's tough "Junkyard Dogs" defenses were instrumental in the Bulldogs winning four  
13 SEC titles and one National Championship, and he became synonymous with Bulldog  
14 football; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Russell left the University of Georgia in 1981 to resurrect the Georgia  
16 Southern University football program, where he served as head coach of the Eagles from  
17 1981 through 1989; and

18 WHEREAS, Coach Russell's remarkable record of 83-22-1 and three Division 1-AA  
19 National Championships at Georgia Southern University established him as one of America's  
20 winningest coaches, averaging 10.4 wins per season; and

21 WHEREAS, Coach Russell was honored twice as the Kodak-American Football Coaches  
22 Association 1-AA "National Coach of the Year," twice as the Kodak-American Football

1 Coaches Association 1-AA "Regional Coach of the Year," five times as "Coach of the Year"  
2 by the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, once as the USA Today Georgia "Coach of the Year,"  
3 and again by USA Today as Georgia "Coach of the Decade," as well as receiving many other  
4 awards, and he was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1987; and

5 WHEREAS, much of the growth and development of Georgia Southern University and the  
6 Bulloch County region have been greatly attributed to the successes of Coach Russell, and  
7 on January 25, 2007, the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce posthumously  
8 named Erk Russell the "Businessman of the Century"; and

9 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Jean Farmer Russell of Statesboro; two sons and  
10 daughters-in law, Rusty and Pam Russell of Statesboro and Jay and Ida Russell of LaGrange;  
11 and ten grandchildren, Brian Faros of Kansas City, Jill Fawcett and Angie Faros of Frisco,  
12 Texas, Audrey and Charlee Russell of Statesboro, Mandy Russell of LaGrange, Davis  
13 Russell of Valdosta, Murphy Russell of Woodstock, and Henry Hughes and Fred Hughes of  
14 LaGrange; and

15 WHEREAS, the way Coach Russell lived his life, reflected in his motto "Just Do Right,"  
16 served to influence the morals and ethics of all who knew him, most especially those who  
17 played for him.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
19 GEORGIA that this state expresses regret at the passing of Coach Erskine "Erk" Russell and  
20 honors his memory by designating State Route 26 (U.S. 80) from its intersection with U.S.  
21 25 in the community of Hopeulikit to the eastern city limits of Statesboro as the Erk Russell  
22 Highway, and the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect and  
23 maintain signs so designating the highway.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
25 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Coach Erskine  
26 "Erk" Russell and the Department of Transportation.