

Senate Resolution 301

By: Senators Brown of the 26th, Staton of the 18th and Mullis of the 53rd

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

1 Dedicating the Phil Walden Memorial Interchange; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, impresario, music pioneer, and savvy businessman Phil Walden nurtured and
3 gave voice to hundreds of musicians who contributed to shaping America's music history,
4 from Southern rock to rhythm and blues to alternative rock; and

5 WHEREAS, born in Greenville, South Carolina, on January 11, 1940, the second of three
6 sons to Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Walden, Phil Walden came to Macon, Georgia, at the age of three,
7 planting his roots deep in this state's red clay; and

8 WHEREAS, after graduating from Lanier High School in 1958, Phil Walden enrolled at
9 Mercer University, and while a student, the charismatic and determined teen began his
10 legendary career in the music industry by booking emerging bands for fraternity parties
11 around Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1960, he opened the Phil Walden Artists and Promotions agency on Mulberry
13 Street in Macon, signing on a young Georgia artist named Otis Redding, who later had one
14 of the defining songs of the era, "(Sittin' on the) Dock of the Bay"; and

15 WHEREAS, a 1962 graduate of Mercer University, Phil Walden served his country with
16 honor, completing a tour of duty with the Adjutant General Corp of the United States Army,
17 where he rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant; and

18 WHEREAS, over more than four decades, Phil Walden, through his Georgia based recording
19 companies Capricorn Records and Velocette Records, represented and produced some of the
20 hottest musical talent of the times, including renowned hit-makers Sam and Dave, Percy
21 Sledge, the Allman Brothers Band, the Marshall Tucker Band, the Dixie Dregs, Elvin
22 Bishop, Wet Willie, Widespread Panic, Cake, and 311, establishing Georgia as a haven for

1 Southern music that draws both musicians and music fans from around the world to Macon
2 and Atlanta; and

3 WHEREAS, through his friendships with and promotion of artists of diverse races, Phil
4 Walden broke down racial barriers during a time of segregation, allowing music to become
5 a common ground for understanding and relationship building that has spanned generations
6 of music fans, for which he was recognized with the 1977 Martin Luther King, Jr.,
7 Humanitarian Award and the 1978 American Jewish Committee Human Relations Award;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the benefit concerts he planned for Georgia presidential candidate Jimmy Carter
10 are still talked about and played a significant role in Carter's successful campaign; and

11 WHEREAS, Phil Walden was a dedicated citizen, providing leadership and support to civic
12 causes for the betterment of life in Macon and Georgia, including having served as campaign
13 chairman of the Macon Muscular Dystrophy Association, chairman of the Macon Heritage
14 Foundation, member of the In-Town Macon Neighborhood Association, board member of
15 the Brandywine Conservancy, and trustee of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and
16 the Atlanta Preservation Center; and

17 WHEREAS, with his lifelong passion for music, his uncanny ability to recognize talent, and
18 his gift for promotion, Phil Walden made an indelible mark on music history and was a true
19 son of the South in preserving the notes and voices of some of Georgia's best artists, which
20 led to him being inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in 1986 and to being named
21 one of the "100 Georgians to Shape the 20th Century" by *Georgia Trend* magazine in 2000.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 GEORGIA that the interchange at I 16 and SR 41 at the Otis Redding Bridge be dedicated
24 as the Phil Walden Memorial Interchange, and that the Department of Transportation is
25 authorized and directed to place and maintain appropriate markers dedicating the Phil
26 Walden Memorial Interchange.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
28 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Phil Walden and to the
29 Department of Transportation.