

Senate Resolution 723

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st, Thomas of the 2nd and Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating Justice Clarence Thomas on his great achievements and dedicating an
2 interchange in his honor; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Justice Clarence Thomas was born June 23, 1948, in Pin Point, Georgia, an
4 enclave of 500 inhabitants south of Savannah on the Moon River. Named after the plantation
5 that once stood on the land, Pin Point was divided up after the Civil War and given to the
6 former slaves. It is easy to miss the tiny community where Clarence Thomas once lived;
7 however, there is a sign at the turnoff noting that he was born there; and

8 WHEREAS, Justice Thomas was the second child and first son of Leola Williams and M. C.
9 Thomas. His father abandoned the family when Thomas was two. After the wooden house
10 they lived in burned down and their mother remarried, Thomas and his brother went to live
11 with their grandfather, Myers Anderson, in Savannah; and

12 WHEREAS, Anderson had a profound influence on Thomas's upbringing and character. In
13 a time when African Americans were forced to the backs of buses, banned from restaurants,
14 and denied employment opportunities, Anderson decided the only way to beat racism was
15 to work for himself. As a result, he was able to provide his grandsons with a comfortable
16 home, including things most people take for granted, such as three meals a day and indoor
17 plumbing; and

18 WHEREAS, Anderson admonished his grandsons to work hard in school. After school,
19 Thomas and his brother worked for their grandfather making fuel deliveries. Thomas often
20 recalls how his grandparents had impressed on him that "school, discipline, hard work and
21 'right-from-wrong' were of the highest priority"; and

22 WHEREAS, Justice Thomas married Virginia Lamp, May 30, 1987, and they had one child,
23 Jamal Adeen; and

1 WHEREAS, after high school, he attended Conception Seminary, 1967-1968; Holy Cross
2 College, A.B. cum laude, Alpha Sigma Nu, Purple Key; and Yale Law School, J.D., 1974;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, he was nominated by President Bush as Associate Justice of the United States
5 Supreme Court and took oath of office October 23, 1991; and

6 WHEREAS, it is only fitting that Justice Clarence Thomas, who rose from humble
7 beginnings through hard work and discipline, be honored for his great achievements.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
9 GEORGIA that the members of this body dedicate the interchange at the intersection of
10 Interstates 16 and 95 in Chatham County as the Clarence Thomas Interchange; and the
11 Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to place and maintain appropriate
12 markers dedicating the Clarence Thomas Interchange.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
14 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Justice Clarence Thomas and to the
15 Department of Transportation.