

House Resolution 1702

By: Representative Sims of the 169<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the life and service of Cleon Baker McCranie and dedicating a bridge in his  
2 memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Cleon Baker McCranie was born on May 22, 1919, to his proud parents, George  
4 Flowers McCranie, Jr., and Margaret Ellen Baker McCranie; and

5 WHEREAS, he was married on March 4, 1950, to Alice Nell McCranie, and they had two  
6 children, Margaret (Peggy) Ann McCranie and James (Jim) Baker McCranie; and

7 WHEREAS, he attended school at Willacoochee Elementary and Willacoochee High School  
8 and furthered his education at Gordon Military College; and

9 WHEREAS, his business background included tree farming, turpentine farming, and working  
10 in a partnership with his brothers; and

11 WHEREAS, Cleon was inducted into the United States Army on April 15, 1942, at Fort  
12 McPherson, Georgia, and served during World War II; and

13 WHEREAS, he served as a Technician 5th Grade in the Headquarters Battery of the 563rd  
14 Field Artillery Battalion, and he was one of the first soldiers to cross the Rhine River and  
15 enter Germany; and

16 WHEREAS, Cleon told his son, Jim, that he once was the front man in a Jeep that led his  
17 battalion through a German mine field; he was under the command of General George S.  
18 Patton, and was ordered to "Just drive down that road until you get blown up"; and

19 WHEREAS, he received many citations during his service, including a WWII Victory  
20 Medal, the Bronze Star, the American Theater Service Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal,  
21 and a Purple Heart; and

1 WHEREAS, he received an Honorable Discharge on December 22, 1945, and returned to his  
2 home and family where he lived a full life until he passed away on March 23, 1977.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
4 GEORGIA that the members of this body commend the life and service of Cleon Baker  
5 McCranie and dedicate the westbound lane of the westernmost bridge over the Alapaha River  
6 on SR 82 at the Atkinson and Berrien County line as the Cleon Baker McCranie Memorial  
7 Bridge.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
9 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the bridge named in this  
10 resolution.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Cleon Baker  
13 McCranie and the Department of Transportation.