

The Senate Transportation Committee offered the following substitute to HR 1023:

A RESOLUTION

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

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, at the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the United States Army Air
4 Corps formed the 99th Fighter Squadron at Tuskegee Institute to train black fighter pilots
5 who, until that time, had not been accepted into pilot training programs in the military; and

6 WHEREAS, after receiving their training, the Tuskegee Airmen were sent to the European
7 Theatre of Operations in 1943 and served in combat in North Africa, Sicily, and Europe; and

8 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen became the first squadron to sink a naval destroyer with
9 only machine guns and the first to shoot down a German jet fighter during World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, by the end of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen had been credited with 261
11 enemy aircraft destroyed; 148 enemy aircraft damaged; 940 units of enemy ground
12 transportation destroyed or damaged; 15,553 combat sorties in 1,578 missions over North
13 Africa, Sicily, and Europe; and more than 200 bomber escort missions without losing a
14 bomber to enemy fighters; and

15 WHEREAS, the unit and its officers and enlisted personnel received three Presidential Unit
16 Citations, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses and Legions of Merit, the Red Star of
17 Yugoslavia, nine Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and more than 700 Air Medals and clusters;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, sixty-six of the Tuskegee Airmen were killed in combat, and another 33 were
20 shot down and held as prisoners of war; and

21 WHEREAS, the unqualified success of the Tuskegee Airmen led to the eventual integration
22 of the United States armed forces; and

1 WHEREAS, the superior record of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II was accomplished
2 by individuals who bravely accepted the challenge and proudly displayed their skill and
3 determination in the face of racism and bigotry at home and who continued to contribute to
4 this country after their military service in World War II; and

5 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., is an education and community service organization
6 dedicated to maintaining the traditions of the Tuskegee Airmen and preserving the legacy of
7 the first generation of African American military aviators of the Second World War with 42
8 chapters throughout the United States, and it has consistently provided inspiration,
9 motivation, mentoring, and role models for elementary, middle, and high school students in
10 this country; and

11 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that Camp Creek Parkway in Fulton County from
12 its intersection with Fulton Industrial Boulevard to its intersection with Interstate
13 Highway 85 should be dedicated in honor of these brave individuals as the Tuskegee Airmen
14 Parkway.

15 PART II

16 WHEREAS, Roderick Steele was a slave boy born about 1847; and

17 WHEREAS, Roderick Steele's owner was James Potter, Trustee for I.A. Potter Estate; and

18 WHEREAS, slaves from the fields were used to help defend the Confederate line at Monteith
19 and obstruct the Augusta Road to Savannah as General Sherman marched from Atlanta to
20 the Sea and this was documented by Major Alfred L. Hartridge in *The Seige of Savannah* in
21 December, 1864; and

22 WHEREAS, according to folklore, Roderick Steele drove the water wagon and provided
23 water to all Confederate and Union soldiers during the battle at Monteith; and

24 WHEREAS, the slaves' assistance helped Confederate soldiers to detour General Sherman's
25 army through Mulberry Grove Plantation; and

26 WHEREAS, the actions of Roderick Steele and other slaves helped save Savannah from
27 destruction by prolonging General Sherman's march to Savannah; and

1 WHEREAS, he is buried in the historic Richmond Church Cemetery which is located in Port
2 Wentworth, Georgia; and

3 WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the life of this courageous man be memorialized by
4 dedicating a lasting monument in his honor.

5 **PART III**

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
7 GEORGIA that Camp Creek Parkway in Fulton County from its intersection with Fulton
8 Industrial Boulevard to its intersection with Interstate Highway 85 is dedicated as the
9 Tuskegee Airmen Parkway.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the viaduct from Monteith to Meinhart over I-95 in Port
11 Wentworth, Georgia, is dedicated as the Roderick Steele Viaduct.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
13 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this
14 resolution.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
16 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of
17 Transportation, to the Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., and to the North Port
18 Wentworth Citizens Council.