

The House Committee on Transportation offers the following substitute to HR 336:

A RESOLUTION

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

- 2 **PART I**
- 3 WHEREAS, Corporal Jonathan Ryan Ayers of Snellville, Georgia, died serving his country
- 4 on Sunday, July 13, 2008; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Shiloh High School where he served with distinction in
- 6 the ROTC program and won the award for "most impressive commander" in 2002; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he joined the Army in April 2006 and went straight from basic and advanced
- 8 individual training at Fort Benning, Georgia, to the 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment
- 9 (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, based in Vicenza, Italy; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Jonathan served in the Army for two years, during which time he deployed to
- 11 Afghanistan, where he earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and a Good Conduct
- 12 Medal for his bravery in combat; and
- 13 WHEREAS, he died of wounds sustained when his outpost was attacked by small-arms fire
- 14 and rocket propelled grenades from enemy forces in Wanat, Afghanistan; and
- 15 WHEREAS, CPL Ayers and his fellow soldiers were completing work on a new base in a
- 16 remote, mountainous region bordering Pakistan; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving parents, Bill and Suzanne Ayers, his brother,
- 18 Joshua, and his grandmother, Pattie Weatherly; and
- 19 WHEREAS, it is only proper and fitting to honor this fallen hero who now stands in the
- 20 unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and
- 21 increase in its blessings.

22

PART II

23 WHEREAS, Dave S. Miller was born in the Whitehouse community in 1874 and spent his
24 entire life there; and

25 WHEREAS, he first worked as a blacksmith, and his shop still stands on the east side of
26 Highway 155 just north of Miller's store; and

27 WHEREAS, in 1830 Silas Moseley, the ancestor of the Moseley clan in Henry County, built
28 the first bridge and corn mill on Big Cotton Indian Creek, and after the Civil War the Hinton
29 family bought the mill property from the Moseleys; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1925, Dave S. Miller bought the mill property and from that time until his
31 death in 1966 he ran a very prosperous business which included the corn mill, a cotton gin,
32 a saw mill, and a planing mill; and

33 WHEREAS, Dave S. Miller's son, Carlton Miller, ran the mill from 1925 until 1947, and his
34 son, David Miller, ran the gin and country store; and

35 WHEREAS, the mill complex was the center of activity for the community and the operation
36 was active until 1960 when Dave S. Miller was too old to work any more; and

37 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper to honor Dave S. Miller for the tremendous impact
38 he and his sons had on their community and Henry County.

39

PART III

40 WHEREAS, William Raleigh Cook was born in Henry County, Georgia, on July 4, 1888,
41 and passed away on August 30, 1957; and

42 WHEREAS, Mamie Leona Steele was born in Henry County, Georgia, on October 5, 1893,
43 and passed away on July 19, 1971; and

44 WHEREAS, they were married in Henry County on December 18, 1912, and set up a
45 homestead at Little Cotton Indian Creek and Decatur Road (now Ga. Hwy 155); and

46 WHEREAS, they farmed the local area and lived on Little Cotton Indian Creek throughout
47 their lives, and they served as managers of the historic Shingleroof Campground Hotel in
48 the 1920's and 1930's; and

49 WHEREAS, they were lifelong members at nearby Salem Baptist Church and greeted and
50 met travelers along Decatur Road for nearly a century; and

51 WHEREAS, the ancestors of both William and Mamie Cook were among the earliest white
52 settlers of Henry County, Georgia, including John Cook who settled in Henry County after
53 serving in the War of 1812 and also including veterans of the Civil War and the Spanish
54 American War. These ancestors lived in the area around Little Cotton Indian Creek along
55 Decatur Road; and

56 WHEREAS, the descendants of William and Mamie Cook include four generations of Henry
57 County residents, many of whom still reside on and near the original homestead. Their
58 number includes decorated veterans of the Second World War, the Korean War, and the
59 Vietnam Conflict. Additionally, many of these descendants have served Henry County as
60 successful businesspersons, academics, horse and cattle ranchers, real estate developers, and
61 professionals in banking, technology, healthcare, and engineering; and

62 WHEREAS, it is only proper and fitting that a lasting memorial be dedicated to the memory
63 of William and Mamie Cook.

64

PART IV

65 WHEREAS, Bobby Walden, the "Big Toe from Cairo" was born in Boston, Georgia, on
66 March 9, 1938; and

67 WHEREAS, he was an all-state halfback at Cairo and also lettered in basketball and track;
68 and

69 WHEREAS, he went to the University of Georgia in 1957 and was part of a Bulldog football
70 team that included teammates Fran Tarkenton, Fred Brown, Bill Godfrey, Pat Dye, and
71 Charlie Britt; and

72 WHEREAS, at the conclusion of his college career, Bobby joined the Edmonton Eskimos,
73 and he led the team in punting, rushing, and receiving in 1961 and 1962; and

74 WHEREAS, he then joined the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League and led
75 the NFL in punting in 1965 with an average of 46.4 yards per kick; and

76 WHEREAS, Bobby was traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1967 and continued as one of the
77 premier punters in the league for the next decade; and

78 WHEREAS, he was an All-Pro selection in 1974, and he punted for Pittsburgh's Super Bowl
79 championship teams in 1974 and 1975; and

80 WHEREAS, Bobby has returned to his roots to live in Cairo and Bainbridge since his
81 retirement from professional football in 1977; and

82 WHEREAS, Bobby has been married for 44 years to the former Scarlett Bates of Bainbridge,
83 and they have one son, Bobby Walden, Jr.; and

84 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that Bobby Walden be recognized for his
85 outstanding accomplishments on and off the football field.

86

PART V

87 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of her great trailblazers and a mighty advocate in
88 George W. Ford, Jr.; and

89 WHEREAS, Mr. Ford was a native son of Columbus, Georgia, who was among the first 200
90 African American men to serve in the Marine Corps and who, after his service in World War
91 II, became a highly respected member of the Civil Rights movement; and

92 WHEREAS, he inspired fellow African Americans by lighting a torch to follow his example
93 in such leadership roles as cofounding the Urban League of Greater Columbus, serving as
94 president of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People branch,
95 and acting as a voice of reason and builder of bridges in his community; and

96 WHEREAS, Mr. Ford was the founder and president emeritus of Progressive Funeral Home
97 and served with distinction as a member of the board of directors for both Aflac and the
98 Columbus Bank and Trust Company; and

99 WHEREAS, the work of this mentor, friend, and teacher was honored with the Jim
100 Woodruff, Jr., Memorial Award in 2003; and

101 WHEREAS, Mr. Ford's actions have paved the way for so many others, and his legacy will
102 live on in future generations of Georgians; and

103 WHEREAS, it is only proper that George W. Ford, Jr., be honored for his life well lived and
104 that a permanent monument in his memory be established.

105

PART VI

106 WHEREAS, Edward A. Logan was born in Benton, Louisiana in 1898; and

107 WHEREAS, he served in the United States Army at the end of World War I and studied
108 engineering by a correspondence course before moving to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to take
109 a job with the Mississippi Highway Department; and

110 WHEREAS, several years later he moved to Atlanta and studied until he received his degree
111 in civil engineering and he was then employed by the Georgia Highway Department as a
112 surveyor; and

113 WHEREAS, in 1924, Mr. Logan was sent to the Florida line to begin surveying and building
114 US 17 and during this time he lived in Woodbine, Brunswick, and Riceboro; and

115 WHEREAS, he later lived in Savannah, Waycross, and Fitzgerald and then back to Savannah
116 where he worked as the district engineer for all three towns; and

117 WHEREAS, in 1940, he took leave from the Georgia Highway Department to do defense
118 work with private contractors; and

119 WHEREAS, in 1951, he moved to St. Simons Island and went back to work for the Georgia
120 Highway Department in 1958 where he was the district engineer for the Jesup division until
121 he retired in 1968 at age 70; and

122 WHEREAS, Mr. Logan was a lifelong Presbyterian and served as an elder in the St. Simons
123 Presbyterian Church, and he was also a Rotarian, a 33rd Degree Mason, a Shriner, and a
124 member of the American Legion and loved to hunt deer and turkey; and

125 WHEREAS, he was married to Eula Mae Best from Hazlehurst, Georgia, and they had two
126 children, Edward and Jean; and

127 WHEREAS, it is only proper that Edward A. Logan be honored for his life well lived and
128 that a permanent monument in his memory be established.

129

PART VII

130 WHEREAS, the Honorable Richard S. Gault was a distinguished Georgian and highly
131 respected jurist who will long be remembered as the patriarch of the courts of Forsyth
132 County, as well as a trusted advisor, confidant, and friend to the legal community; and

133 WHEREAS, Judge Gault died suddenly on July 23, 2003; and

134 WHEREAS, he graduated from Marietta High School, was a cadet at the United States Air
135 Force Academy, served four years in the Air Force, was honorably discharged with the rank
136 of captain in 1971, and he earned his Juris Doctorate from the Emory University School of
137 Law; and

138 WHEREAS, he served six years as an Assistant and Special Assistant Attorney General of
139 Georgia, six years as solicitor and four years as judge of the State Court of Cherokee and
140 Forsyth Counties, and 14 years as judge of the Superior Court of the Blue Ridge Circuit; and

141 WHEREAS, Judge Gault worked tirelessly to ensure that the judicial needs of the citizens
142 of Georgia and fast-growing Forsyth County were met, and his work was vital to the
143 formation of the Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit in 1998; and

144 WHEREAS, his keen intellect, integrity, and skill in communicating the needs of the judicial
145 branch earned him the esteem of his colleagues on the bench and the respect and admiration
146 of members of the executive and legislative branches of state government, as exemplified by
147 his membership on the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism from 1997-2002 and
148 on the Supreme Court Blue Ribbon Commission on the Judiciary; and

149 WHEREAS, Judge Gault was a dedicated leader in his community as a member of First
150 Baptist Church of Cumming and president of his Unity Sunday School Class, and he was a
151 charter member of the Forsyth County Rotary Club, an organizer in the Charter Class of
152 Leadership Forsyth, and served as director of the Cumming-Forsyth Chamber of Commerce;
153 and

154 WHEREAS, it is only proper and fitting that the memory of Judge Gault be honored by
155 dedicating a lasting memorial to his life of service to his community and to the State of
156 Georgia.

157

PART VIII

158 WHEREAS, Doug Ferguson was born on December 28, 1946, to John Lewis Ferguson and
159 Jessie Lorene Ferguson of Emerson, Georgia, and he lived his entire life in Emerson; and

160 WHEREAS, Doug married Melissa Stokes on March 19, 1969, and they had two sons, Aaron
161 and Alexander, who also reside in Emerson; and

162 WHEREAS, in 1994, he opened Doug's Place Restaurant in the former Moms Groceries
163 store building, a landmark in Emerson that is over 100 years old; and

164 WHEREAS, Doug was instrumental in establishing an annual "Emerson Reunion" bringing
165 together former and current Emerson residents for a great time of fellowship and
166 strengthening of the Emerson identity; and

167 WHEREAS, Doug's Place was recognized by the Georgia House of Representatives in 2001
168 by means of House Resolution 575 commending Doug's Place Restaurant for being "a fine
169 eating establishment known far and wide as a place for good food, fast service, and ample
170 servings; and the success of this venture no doubt is due to the strong work ethic, fairness,
171 honesty, and talent of the very dedicated Ferguson family"; and

172 WHEREAS, Doug Ferguson passed away on January 14, 2007, but he shall never be
173 forgotten by the citizens of Emerson; and

174 WHEREAS, it is only proper that Doug Ferguson be honored for his life well lived and that
175 a permanent monument in his memory be established.

176

PART IX

177 WHEREAS, David Paul (Bubba) Land was born on February 11, 1971, the fine son of Paul
178 and Linda Land, brother to Shelly, and proud father of Taylor; and

179 WHEREAS, David realized his dream of being a police officer when, in March of 1990, he
180 became an Atlanta police officer; and

181 WHEREAS, in 1992, he went to work for the Stone Mountain Police Department where he
182 worked as an officer until being hired by the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office in December
183 of 1997; and

184 WHEREAS, while working with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, David met Paula
185 Shapiro, who was also working as a deputy with the Sheriff's Office, and in July of 2002,
186 David and Paula were married in a storybook wedding at Walt Disney World in Orlando,
187 Florida; and

188 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2003, David was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and returned
189 to the uniform patrol; and

190 WHEREAS, on March 26, 2003, at approximately 1600 hours, Sgt. Land responded to a call
191 for service regarding a fight in progress and as he was traveling west on Highway 20 (Buford
192 Highway) on his motorcycle with lights and siren activated, a motorist turned left into his
193 path and he was thrown from the motorcycle and received fatal injuries; and

194 WHEREAS, in May of 2004, Sgt. Land was placed on the Police Officer's Memorial Wall
195 in Washington, D.C., by his family, friends, and brothers and sisters of the Forsyth County
196 Sheriff's Office; and

197 WHEREAS, in December of 2007, David's brothers and sisters of the Fraternal Order of
198 Police Lanier Lodge #82 voted and changed the lodge name to the Sgt. D. P. Land Memorial
199 Lodge #82 in memory of David who served his community and was a friend to all; and

200 WHEREAS, Sgt. Land paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in the performance of his
201 duties in the career that he loved, and it is only fitting that a lasting memorial to honor his
202 memory be established.

203

PART X

204 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
205 GEORGIA that the interchange at US 78 and Killian Hill Road, in Gwinnett County, be
206 dedicated as the CPL Jonathan Ryan Ayers Memorial Interchange.

207 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new bridge in Henry County over Big Cotton Creek
208 be dedicated as the Dave S. Miller Memorial Bridge.

209 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge on SR 155 at Little Cotton Indian Creek be
210 dedicated as the William R. and Mamie Steele Cook Memorial Bridge.

211 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of U.S. Highway 84, in Decatur County,
212 Georgia, from the Grady County line west to the traffic light at Whigham Dairy Road, within
213 the limits of the Wiregrass Georgia Parkway, be dedicated as the Bobby Walden Highway.

214 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interchange at Interstate Highway 85 and St. Mary's
215 Road in Muscogee County be dedicated as the George W. Ford, Jr. Interchange.

216 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge in Glynn County over Fancy Bluff Creek on
217 SR 520/SR 25 at milepost 14.75 be dedicated as the Edward A. Logan Memorial Bridge.

218 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interchange at GA 400 and SR 20 in Forsyth County
219 be dedicated as the Judge Richard S. (Stan) Gault Memorial Interchange.

220 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge being erected over Hwy 41, in Emerson,
221 Georgia, be dedicated as the Doug Ferguson Memorial Bridge.

222 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge on SR 20 over Haw Creek in Forsyth County,
223 Georgia, be dedicated as the Sgt. D. P. Land Memorial Bridge.

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

227 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
228 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of
229 Transportation, to the family of Corporal Jonathan Ryan Ayers, to the family of Dave S.
230 Miller, to the family of William R. and Mamie Steele Cook, to Robert Earl (Bobby) Walden,
231 to the family of George W. Ford, Jr., to the family of Edward A. Logan, to the family of
232 Richard S. (Stan) Gault, to the family of Doug Ferguson, and to the family of Sgt. D. P.
233 Land.