

Senate Resolution 567

By: Senator Seabaugh of the 28th

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the life and service of Jeffrey Steven Blanton and dedicating a highway in his
2 memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Jeffrey Steven Blanton was born on November 4, 1981, at Cobb County
4 Hospital in Marietta, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1992, when Jeffrey was 11, he moved with his family to Senoia, Georgia, in
6 Coweta County; and

7 WHEREAS, from the ages of 11 through 16, Jeffrey played baseball for in the Senoia
8 Recreation Department league; and

9 WHEREAS, in his seventh and eighth grade years he played football for East Coweta Middle
10 School; and

11 WHEREAS, at the age of 15 he gave his life to God, was baptized, and became a member
12 of Starr's Mill Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, Jeffrey's love of baseball continued from the ages of 16 through 19 as an umpire
14 for the Senoia Recreation Department league; and

15 WHEREAS, during his junior year in high school he joined the Vocational Opportunities
16 Club of America, and in 1999 he won first place for the East Coweta High School math team
17 at a competition at St. Simons Island; and

18 WHEREAS, at an early age of 16 he showed a real interest in joining the military and joined
19 the R.O.T.C. in his junior year and stayed until his senior year; and

20 WHEREAS, Jeffrey's hobbies included hunting and fishing and he loved to fish for trout and
21 hunt for deer; and

22 WHEREAS, he graduated from Marietta High School in June, 2001, and after the disasters
23 on September 11, 2001, he made the decision to enlist in the Marines so he could fight the
24 war on terrorism for his country; and

25 WHEREAS, he enlisted in November, 2001, and in March, 2002, he left for Paris Island for
26 13 weeks of boot camp, and afterwards he was sent to Camp Jeune in North Carolina for
27 infantry training; and

28 WHEREAS, when he completed his training he was stationed in Hawaii where he received
29 more extensive training and was able to travel to places like Japan and Afghanistan; and

30 WHEREAS, while in Hawaii, Jeffrey met and married an Army paralegal on February 29,
31 2004; and

32 WHEREAS, in June, 2004, he was deployed to Iraq where he served until he was shot in the
33 foot and lost three of his toes, for which he received a Purple Heart and was offered an
34 honorable discharge; but he decided he would stay in the Marines and that his place was with
35 his men. He went back on duty on December 11 and was killed during sweep missions on
36 December 12, 2004; and

37 WHEREAS, on December 20, 2004, Jeffrey was laid to rest at Marietta National Cemetery;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, LCPL Jeffrey Blanton loved and served his country with great pride, and his
40 loyalty and service should always be remembered for generations to come.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
42 GEORGIA that the members of this body recognize the ultimate sacrifice of Jeffrey Steven
43 Blanton and dedicate the portion of SR 85 from the Fayette/Coweta County line to the
44 Meriwether County line as the Jeffrey Steven Blanton Memorial Highway.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
46 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Jeffrey Steven Blanton
47 Memorial Highway.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Jeffrey Steven Blanton and
50 to the Department of Transportation.