

Senate Resolution 176

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

**ADOPTED SENATE**

**A RESOLUTION**

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

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, James H. Chandler, Jr., was only 33 years old when he was fatally injured in  
4 a traffic accident while he was responding to a bank alarm on his police motorcycle; and

5 WHEREAS, the accident occurred on September 24, 1982, at the intersection of SR 1 and  
6 Cloud Springs Road, and James died the next day from his injuries; and

7 WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Lakeview High School and the Floyd College Regional  
8 Police Academy; and

9 WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Mr. Chandler had worked with the Fort Oglethorpe  
10 Police Department for four years, and in 1999, the police department's training facility was  
11 named in his honor; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Chandler was often described as a big guy, with a big heart, who loved his  
13 job; and

14 WHEREAS, he left behind his beautiful wife Jeannie and three sons, Mark, Brian, and Sean;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the memory of James H. Chandler, Jr., be perpetuated by  
17 a lasting monument to his life well-lived.

18 **PART II**

19 WHEREAS, MSG Davy Weaver, a soldier in the Georgia Army National Guard from  
20 Barnesville, Georgia, was killed while riding in a vehicle that was struck by an improvised  
21 explosive device in Qalat, Afghanistan, on May 18, 2008; and

22 WHEREAS, he was born on February 8, 1969, to Patsy Rabuck and Emory Weaver; and

23 WHEREAS, as a youth, he served his community as a Cub, Boy, and Eagle Scout, and  
24 naturally, he fell in love with the military as a young man; and

25 WHEREAS, MSG Weaver enlisted in the Georgia Army National Guard on March 25, 1987,  
26 as an infantry soldier, and he completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training  
27 at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, on May 11, 2005, he was ordered into active service in support of Operation  
29 Iraqi Freedom, and he was stationed in Kuwait and Iraq and spent a year supporting that  
30 mission; and

31 WHEREAS, in May, 2007, he was sent with members of the 48th Brigade Combat Team to  
32 Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

33 WHEREAS, MSG Weaver was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge in September,  
34 2007, for his actions under enemy fire and rocket attack in Afghanistan; and

35 WHEREAS, he loved his family dearly and loved his job and mission in Afghanistan; and

36 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Susan, his children Bradley, Malachi, and Ellanor,  
37 and his step-daughters Jennifer and Mary A. Morris; and

38 WHEREAS, MSG Weaver will be forever remembered as a true hero and professional  
39 soldier, and it is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial be dedicated in his honor.

40 **PART III**

41 WHEREAS, the Battle of Chickamauga, named after the Chickamauga Creek which flowed  
42 nearby, was fought September 19-20, 1863, and involved more than 150,000 soldiers of the  
43 Northern and Southern Armies; and

44 WHEREAS, the landscape of the battle was one where neither army wanted to fight, and the  
45 thick forest limited visibility to 150 feet, less than the range of a rifle; cannon were useless,  
46 and often the fighting was hand-to-hand; and

47 WHEREAS, during the battle, soldiers were cared for in the nearby homes and adjacent  
48 buildings, with many Union doctors remaining behind to care for the wounded after the  
49 Southern victory, and many parched and wounded soldiers of both sides drank from the  
50 town's bubbling Crawfish Spring, still active today; and

51 WHEREAS, the corridor of the highway dedicated in this resolution follows the general  
52 route of march of the US Army of the Cumberland that fought in the Battle of Chickamauga;  
53 and

54 WHEREAS, it is only fitting to honor the brave men who fought and died here with a lasting  
55 memorial to their sacrifice.

56 **PART IV**

57 WHEREAS, Mason Varner was born on May 8, 1932, in Macland Community. He spent  
58 his entire life in Macland, with the exception of four years he spent in the United States Coast  
59 Guard. One of his lifelong friends, Clint Carlile, said Mason could not wait to get back to  
60 Macland every chance he got while in the service; and

61 WHEREAS, Mason attended McEachern School and graduated in 1949. Six high school  
62 friends and Mason joined the Coast Guard in 1952 for a four-year stint; and

63 WHEREAS, Mason met Ann Greenway, a teacher at McEachern School, and they were  
64 married on March 4, 1956, and had three children, Melinda, Teri, and John. Ann passed  
65 away in 2001; and

66 WHEREAS, after Mason was discharged from service and returned to Macland, he started  
67 Varner's Ace Hardware store at the intersection of Macland and New Macland-Lost  
68 Mountain Roads. He and Ann operated the store for approximately 20 years. He was a great  
69 businessman; and

70 WHEREAS, Varner's store at Macland became a community institution, and all types of  
71 local, state, and national political discussions were held there; and

72 WHEREAS, fishing was a passion for Mason and he spent many days and nights on a lake  
73 with friends, and some of his favorite memories after retirement were from his cabin on Lake  
74 Weiss in Alabama; and

75 WHEREAS, Mason was a lifetime member of McEachern United Methodist Church and  
76 supported its many programs. He was also a member of Austell Post #216 of The American  
77 Legion; and

78 WHEREAS, Mason passed away on November 13, 2007, surrounded by his children,  
79 grandchildren, brother, sister, nieces, nephews, and many friends. It was exactly as he would  
80 have wanted it.

81 **PART V**

82 WHEREAS, Jimmy Middleton was born to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar P. Middleton in 1937 and  
83 he grew up in Waverly, Georgia, as the youngest of three children; and

84 WHEREAS, he began his career in law enforcement in 1959 and served as chief deputy  
85 under Sheriff W. E. "Willie" Smith for 18 years before becoming the Sheriff of Camden  
86 County; and

87 WHEREAS, as sheriff from 1977 to 1985, he understood that being effective in his position  
88 required a close partnership with the community, and his legacy as a compassionate and  
89 hands-on sheriff will be remembered by many people for many years; and

90 WHEREAS, he served as sheriff during a time when your nearest backup might be a county  
91 away; and

92 WHEREAS, his service to his community went beyond being sheriff, as he also served as  
93 county commissioner and on various boards; and

94 WHEREAS, in 1957, Jimmy married Anne Rentz, and they were blessed with three children  
95 and, in turn, five grandchildren; and

96 WHEREAS, true to his nature, Jimmy was a giving and compassionate man and his friends  
97 looked to him for leadership, guidance, and support, and he was respected and loved by  
98 countless people in the community; and

99 WHEREAS, he will be remembered for his loyal dedication to his family and his  
100 commitment to the citizens of Camden County.

101 **PART VI**

102 WHEREAS, Ray Delaigle has long been recognized by the citizens of Burke County for the  
103 vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare  
104 of the citizens of Georgia; and

105 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,  
106 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced  
107 dramatically by his superlative service as a member and chairperson of the Board of  
108 Commissioners of Burke County; and

109 WHEREAS, his significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience  
110 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this  
111 state have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

112 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for  
113 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

114 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
115 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating a lasting  
116 reminder of his service to the people of Burke County.

117 **PART VII**

118 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
119 GEORGIA that the intersection of SR 1 and Cloud Springs Road be dedicated as the James  
120 H. Chandler, Jr. Memorial Intersection.

121 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of SR 36 from US 41 near Barnesville to  
122 Liberty Hill in Lamar County, Georgia, be dedicated as the MSG Davy Nathaniel Weaver  
123 Memorial Highway.

124 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of SR 341 from its intersection with SR 193  
125 north to its intersection with Gordon Street in Chickamauga be dedicated as the US Army  
126 of the Cumberland Highway.

127 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a portion of Macland Road, SR 360, from the Paulding  
128 County line into Cobb County and ending at John Petree Road be dedicated as the Mason  
129 Varner Memorial Highway.

130 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of SR 25/US 17 within the limits of the  
131 Ocean Highway in Camden County, beginning at Oscar Road (CR 266 at MP 22.12) and  
132 ending at the County Line Bridge (MP 31.56) be dedicated as the Sheriff Jimmy Middleton  
133 Memorial Highway.

134 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge on SR 56 over Rocky Creek in Burke County,  
135 Georgia, be dedicated as the Ray Delaigle Bridge.

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

139 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
140 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation, to the  
141 family of James H. Chandler, Jr., to the family of MSG Davy Nathaniel Weaver, to the City  
142 of Chickamauga, to the family of Mason Varner, to the family of Sheriff Jimmy Middleton,  
143 and to Ray Delaigle.