

Senate Resolution 1074

By: Senator Douglas of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Roy and Aaron Varner and dedicating a highway in their honor; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the early 1940's, Roy Varner migrated from Franklin County to Newton
4 County, where he met his future wife of 66 years Charlyne Aaron; and

5 WHEREAS, the couple has two children, Anita Varner and Aaron Varner, two
6 grandchildren, Ginger Johnson and Tuesday Rawls, and four great-grandchildren, Skye and
7 Jonathan Johnson and Jet and Riley Rawls; and

8 WHEREAS, Roy says he was born a farmer and will die a farmer, but he realized by the
9 1970's that small-scale farming could not support a family and he gave up farming and
10 entered his second career; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1977, he was elected chairman of the Newton County Board of
12 Commissioners, where he served until 1992; and

13 WHEREAS, his goal was to make Newton County a better place for his grandchildren and
14 great-grandchildren to live; and he viewed his role as that of a public servant, not a politician,
15 and felt that the best government occurred when cities and the county cooperated to achieve
16 common goals; and

17 WHEREAS, during Roy Varner's years in office, great progress was made in Newton County
18 and he attributes this success to the support given by the voters of Newton County to the
19 Board of Commissioners when they approved the special purpose local option sales tax and
20 a general obligation bond; and

21 WHEREAS, he viewed the passage of the two financial bills as proof that the voters had
22 confidence in his administration's ability to improve conditions for all of the county; and

23 WHEREAS, among the achievements the county reached during Roy Varner's 16 years of
24 service were the Cornish Creek Reservoir, a project that included the efforts of leaders in
25 Walton County, the City of Covington, and Newton County, which had many naysayers who
26 said that the reservoir would never be built, but Roy and others believed in the project that
27 was finished within five years, giving a ready source of water to the residents of the area;
28 obtaining the right of way and building Georgia Highway 613, which is referred to locally
29 as "the bypass road"; purchasing modern equipment for the roads department in order
30 provide better road maintenance capabilities for the county; providing fire trucks and
31 firefighters for each district of the county – in 1977, Newton County had one fire truck and
32 one fireman; constructing a building in which county-wide animal control was housed;
33 building a new jail; and establishing a retirement system for all county employees; and

34 WHEREAS, he served on many committees, including the Association County
35 Commissioners of Georgia, the Water and Soil Conservation Board, the Georgia Finance
36 Authority, Operation Round Up, and the Regional Conservation and Development Council;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Roy
39 Varner and his family be established.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
41 GEORGIA that this body hereby joins in recognizing the accomplishments and public
42 service of Roy Varner and dedicates the portion of SR 36 from Henderson Mill Road to SR
43 212 in Newton County as the Roy and Aaron Varner Highway.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
45 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Roy and Aaron Varner
46 Highway.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Roy and Aaron Varner and
49 to the Department of Transportation.