

## House Resolution 494

By: Representatives Roberts of the 154<sup>th</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Pruett of the 144<sup>th</sup>, O`Neal of the 146<sup>th</sup>, and McBrayer of the 153<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the service of Senior Airman Michael J. Buras and dedicating a road in his  
2 memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Michael J. Buras was born in Tifton, Georgia, on July 28, 1987, to John E.  
4 Buras and Joy Ann Butrica Buras and he grew up in Fitzgerald, Georgia, graduating from  
5 Fitzgerald High School in 2005; and

6 WHEREAS, he was very active in the DLS sports programs and an avid Purple Hurricane  
7 soccer team member for four years, having been named to the Who's Who of Georgia Soccer;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, he enlisted in the Air Force in April 2006, and after completing basic military  
10 training at Lackland AFB, Texas, he graduated the Naval EOD technical training in March  
11 2007 at Eglin AFB, Florida, and he arrived at his first, and only, duty station at Nellis AFB  
12 where he immediately began his journeyman skill-level upgrade; and

13 WHEREAS, SrA Buras was no stranger to Afghanistan, he deployed three times in his short  
14 career, twice to Bagram Airfield where he was assigned to the 755th Air Expeditionary  
15 Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, Operating Location Alpha; during his second  
16 deployment in May 2009, he received the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during an  
17 improvised explosive device (IED) explosion on his armored vehicle; and

18 WHEREAS, he deployed on August 25, 2010, with the 755th Air Expeditionary Squadron  
19 EOD Flight, to Operating Location Bravo, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, and he and his  
20 Air Force team cleared lines of communication; enabled freedom of maneuver; and ensured  
21 coalition and local national safety by engaging and defeating the enemy's weapon of choice,  
22 the IED; and

23 WHEREAS, on September 21, 2010, his team dismounted in the vicinity of Hendu Kalachen,  
24 Kandahar Province, Dand District and proceeded to prosecute two victim-operated IEDs; and

25 WHEREAS, unknown to his team, a device was insidiously camouflaged next to their safe  
26 area and SrA Buras was mortally wounded and his team members seriously injured when the  
27 device detonated; and

28 WHEREAS, SrA Buras has earned the Bronze Star with Valor device, Purple Heart with one  
29 oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army  
30 Commendation Medal with Valor device and one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Combat Action  
31 Medal with Gold Star device, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one bronze star, the ISAF  
32 NATO Medal, and the Army Combat Action Badge; and

33 WHEREAS, he was vivacious and tenacious, and an exceptional and experienced EOD team  
34 member, a devoted husband, father, and friend, and his greatest joy was his daughter,  
35 Maddison; he will forever be missed and is survived by his wife Emily, daughter Maddison,  
36 father John, mother Joy, and sisters Samantha and Michele; and

37 WHEREAS, by his heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty in the service to his  
38 country, Senior Airman Buras has reflected great credit upon himself and the country and it  
39 is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial be dedicated in his honor.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
41 GEORGIA that the members of this body join in recognizing and honoring Senior Airman  
42 Buras for his heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty in the service of his country and  
43 dedicate the portion of SR 129S from the intersection at SR 107 to the Irwin County line as  
44 the Senior Airman Michael J. Buras 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 Senior Airman Michael J.  
47 Buras Memorial Highway.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
49 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Senior Airman  
50 Michael J. Buras and the Department of Transportation.