

Senate Resolution 386

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Roy Parrish, Jr., and dedicating a road in his honor; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Roy Parrish was born in Walker County, Georgia, on November 29, 1933, one  
4 of four children born to Roy E. Parrish, Sr., and the former Annie May Autry; the Parrish  
5 family and the Autry family were pioneers to Walker County and have made this county their  
6 homes since the eighteenth century; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Parrish was educated in the City of Chickamauga School System and  
8 graduated from Gordon Lee High School in 1953; he started to work for the Chickamauga  
9 Telephone Company while still in high school, and he remained in their employ for nineteen  
10 years, the last several as general manager; and

11 WHEREAS, he also served two years on active duty with the United States Army in Korea;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, he was elected Sole Commissioner of Walker County in the Democratic  
14 Primary of 1972 and took office January 1, 1973; he went on to serve six four-year terms;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, some of his major accomplishments include building the first sanitary landfill  
17 in 1973 and operating it for 23 years; building and paving the county roads; passing the first  
18 Local Option Sales Tax Referendum in 1977 that rolled back county property tax and for the  
19 first time and offered property tax relief to the local community; building the civic center,  
20 pavilion, and the 911 Center; building a tunnel from the courthouse to the jail for security;  
21 building and operating an animal shelter, 16 fire stations, and 126 bridges; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Parrish worked with Georgia Department of Transportation and the United  
23 States Department of the Interior as well as the National Park Service and Congressman

24 Buddy Darden to get a better corridor through or around the Chickamauga Battlefield and  
25 was largely responsible for getting the western route through Walker County established as  
26 the relocated Highway 27 around the Chickamauga National Park; and

27 WHEREAS, he has been married to the former Cora Ann Kell, also a native of Walker  
28 County, for more than 50 years, and they had two children, two grandchildren, and two  
29 great-grandchildren; they live in the City of Chickamauga where they are active members  
30 of the Elizabeth Lee United Methodist Church.

31 WHEREAS, he retired, undefeated, from public office in 1996 and now enjoys the freedom  
32 of retirement; he and Cora Ann spend time traveling, enjoying their family, gardening, and  
33 working in their church where Roy has recruited many of his friends; and

34 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that a lasting tribute to this life of public service be  
35 established.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
37 GEORGIA that this body desires to honor Roy Parrish by dedicating the portion of US 27/SR  
38 1 from the city limits of Fort Oglethorpe south to Shields Crossing as the Roy Parrish  
39 Parkway.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
41 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Roy Parrish Parkway.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
43 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Roy Parrish and to the  
44 Department of Transportation.