

House Resolution 584

By: Representatives Maddox of the 127th and Walker of the 107th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Coach Jim Cavan and dedicating a road in his memory; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Jim Cavan was born in Decatur, Georgia, in 1913; and

4 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, he received a football scholarship to the
5 University of Georgia where he played on Coach Harry Mehre's last team at Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, after college he started coaching high school football, first at Gainesville High
7 School and then at Rome High School where his team won the state championship in 1942;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II; while in the Navy he was a
10 coach at the Iowa Pre-Flight School where he worked with such football legends as Bud
11 Wilkinson, Jim Tatum, and Johnny Vaught; and

12 WHEREAS, he was named as the head football coach and athletic director at R.E. Lee High
13 School in 1953 and remained in those positions until he retired in 1976; and

14 WHEREAS, during his 23 year career at Lee his football record was 140-84-14; his teams
15 won region championships in 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967, and 1970; the Rebels played Valdosta
16 for the AAA state championship in 1961 and his 1970 team was Lee's first regular season
17 undefeated team; and

18 WHEREAS, Coach Cavan was named as Georgia's high school coach of the year in 1961 by
19 the Atlanta Touchdown Club; and

20 WHEREAS, he was a contemporary of such legendary Georgia high school coaches as
21 Wright Bazemore, Oliver Hunnicutt, Calvin Ramsey, Weyman Sellers, and Billy Henderson,

22 and Coach Cavan's name is always mentioned when the subject of Georgia's greatest high
23 school coaches comes up; and

24 WHEREAS, while at Lee, he was also the head coach of the Lady Rebels basketball team
25 and they had great success as his teams won 14 region titles and captured state
26 championships in 1963 and 1966; the 1962-63 team had a perfect 32-0 record and the
27 1963-64 team won its first 27 games, to run their streak to 59 consecutive wins, before losing
28 in the state championship game; and

29 WHEREAS, he met his wife, Dot, at the University of Georgia and they were married for 44
30 years until Coach Cavan passed away in 1983; and

31 WHEREAS, during his coaching career at Lee, Coach Cavan had the privilege of coaching
32 each of his five children; he coached Dottie and Joanie in basketball, and Jimmy, Mike, and
33 Pete in football; and

34 WHEREAS, Coach Cavan was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1961 and
35 into the Thomaston-Upson Inaugural Induction Hall of Fame in 2005; and

36 WHEREAS, Coach Jim Cavan continues to be a positive influence in the lives of thousands
37 of graduates of R.E. Lee High School; he consistently exhibited the character traits of
38 discipline, perseverance, loyalty, faith, and dedication to everyone he touched; and

39 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial to this great man and coach
40 be established.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
42 GEORGIA that this body joins in honoring the life of Coach Jim Cavan and dedicates the
43 portion of SR 74 in Thomaston, Georgia, in Upson County, from its intersection with Church
44 Street to its intersection with Holston Drive as the Coach Jim Cavan Memorial Parkway.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
46 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Coach Jim Cavan Memorial
47 Parkway.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Coach Jim
50 Cavan and the Department of Transportation.