

Senate Resolution 343

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, PFC Samuel Stephens Lance was born to Sam and Virginia Jo Lance on
4 November 24, 1949, in Fort Payne, Alabama; and

5 WHEREAS, he was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne
6 Division and died in Vietnam on May 1, 1970, while serving his country; and

7 WHEREAS, Steve attended Gordon Lee High School in Chickamauga, Georgia, where he
8 played football and basketball in his senior year; and

9 WHEREAS, he received the Coaches "Max Smith Award" for his skill at baseball; and

10 WHEREAS, he attended Fellowship Baptist Church in Chickamauga, and loved to go fishing
11 and hunting whenever he could; and

12 WHEREAS, Steve had three sisters, Jennifer Tarvin, Cynthia Lance, and Bridgett Barrett;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, because his father died three years before him, Steve became the man of the
15 family at a young age and took good care of his mother and sisters before he went into
16 military service; and

17 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial to this hero who made the
18 ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom be established.

19 **PART II**

20 WHEREAS, in 1887, Charles Lafayette Stapleton, Charlie Will Stapleton's father, settled on
21 farmland bordering Bear Creek and reared 11 children; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1938, Charlie Will bought adjacent farmland that surrounds the present
23 bridge site over Bear Creek; and

24 WHEREAS, he lived on and farmed this land for his entire life, and the land is still owned
25 and farmed by his great-nephew; and

26 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial to this outstanding man be
27 established.

28 **PART III**

29 WHEREAS, Luther H. Story was a soldier in the United States Army during the Korean
30 War, and he posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions on
31 September 1, 1950; and

32 WHEREAS, he was born on July 20, 1931, in Buena Vista, Georgia; and

33 WHEREAS, on September 1, 1950, PFC Story distinguished himself by conspicuous
34 gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action; and

35 WHEREAS, during a savage daylight attack that penetrated the thinly held lines of the 9th
36 Infantry, PFC Story, a weapons squad leader, observed a large group of the enemy crossing
37 the river to attack Company A; and seizing a machine gun from his wounded gunner, he
38 placed deadly fire on the hostile column, killing or wounding an estimated 100 enemy
39 soldiers; and

40 WHEREAS, facing certain encirclement, the company commander ordered a withdrawal;
41 during the move, PFC Story noticed the approach of an enemy truck, and after alerting his
42 comrades to take cover, he fearlessly stood in the middle of the road, throwing grenades into
43 the truck; and

44 WHEREAS, during the withdrawal, the company was attacked by such superior numbers that
45 it was forced to deploy in a rice field, and PFC Story was wounded in this action but,

46 disregarding his wounds, rallied the men about him and repelled the attack; when last seen,
47 he was firing every weapon available and fighting off another hostile assault; and

48 WHEREAS, PFC Story's extraordinary heroism, aggressive leadership, and supreme
49 devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and were in keeping with the
50 esteemed traditions of the military service.

51 **PART IV**

52 WHEREAS, although he considered himself an Atlanta native, Forrest Laughlin Adair II
53 was born in 1941 in Birmingham, Alabama; and

54 WHEREAS, after graduating from Riverside Military School, he attended Georgia Tech and
55 later graduated from Georgia State with a business degree in real estate; and

56 WHEREAS, Forrest did not accept Jack Adair's offer of employment in the family business,
57 Adair Realty; instead, he felt compelled to be responsible for his own destiny, so he joined
58 The First National Bank of Atlanta in 1962; and

59 WHEREAS, but real estate was his true calling, so in 1982, he partnered with Virgil and Jim
60 Williams to form Williams Adair Equity Corp. and later, Williams Adair Realty Corp.; and

61 WHEREAS, over the next several decades, he directed the construction, purchase, and sale
62 of over one million square feet of diversified product, including office parks, strip shopping
63 centers, and mid-rise suburban office buildings; and

64 WHEREAS, he was always concerned with the impact of real estate on the community, as
65 evidenced by his participation in civic organizations, such as The Gwinnett Council for
66 Quality Growth - Past President, The Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, The Evermore CID,
67 NAIOP, the Commercial Board of Realtors, and others too numerous to name; and

68 WHEREAS, real estate was in his blood; Forrest Laughlin Adair II was the 4th generation
69 of an Atlanta real estate family, and his great-great-grandfather, Colonel George Adair, was
70 commonly referred to as the Father of Atlanta for his work rebuilding Atlanta after the Civil
71 War; Colonel Adair's motto was, "To be reliable is a fortune"; and

72 WHEREAS, Forrest's legacy is visible throughout Gwinnett County; he had a hand in all
73 types of projects, including apartments, office buildings, office parks, and shopping centers;

74 but land development projects were his favorite, as evidenced by his ATM pin number
75 "DIRT"; and

76 WHEREAS, walking a property in consideration of future development was his favorite real
77 estate activity; however, his most important legacy was the development of young men; and

78 WHEREAS, he was keenly aware of the challenges that face today's youth, and he believed
79 in building character in young men through the lessons and challenges of youth sports; he
80 coached baseball and football for over 30 years, and although some teams included his sons,
81 most of his time was spent pro bono for the children of others; he was known for
82 chauffeuring boys whose parents could not provide transportation and for building
83 self-confidence and teaching accountability; and

84 WHEREAS, he loved real estate, but his true legacy can be seen in the faces of all he
85 touched, and it is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial to this life well lived be
86 established.

87 **PART V**

88 WHEREAS, William Austin Atkins, Sr., born in Tate, Georgia, on August 16, 1933, to
89 Austin and Gladys Atkins, has been recognized in the 24th Edition of Who's Who in the
90 World as worthy of recognition along with notable leaders and achievers from all walks of
91 life, whose contributions have made a lasting impact on the political, cultural, business, and
92 academic frameworks of America and the world; and

93 WHEREAS, this esteemed member of the House of Representatives from 1982 to 1994
94 served his constituents well as a member of the Appropriations, Regulated Beverages, and
95 Industry Committees; and

96 WHEREAS, his bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from Mercer University was of
97 great use to him as the Director of the Drugs and Narcotics Agency of the State of Georgia,
98 a position which he retired from in 2008; and

99 WHEREAS, Mr. Atkins possesses a wide range of talents and abilities which include being
100 lead vocalist of the Bill Atkins Band; and

101 WHEREAS, this devoted husband and father of two children and two stepchildren still finds
102 time to be involved in his community through his service to the First United Methodist

103 Church on the administrative board, to Mercer University School of Pharmacy on the board
104 of directors, Brawner Hospital on the governing board, and Smyrna Hospital on the
105 long-range planning board; and

106 WHEREAS, he honorably served his country in the United States Army Medical Service
107 Corps from 1955 to 1957; and

108 WHEREAS, others have recognized his talents and contributions by honoring him with
109 awards such as the Smryna/Oakdale Moose Lodge in 1993 with the "Mr. Cobb County"
110 award; the Cobb County Clean Commission in 1992 with the "One of a Kind Award"; Cobb
111 County in 1992 with the Statesman of the Year award; American Cancer Society in 1991
112 with the Recipient Appreciation plaque; Personal Care Homes of Georgia in 1991 with the
113 Legislator of the Year Friendship Award; and the Cobb County Bar Association in 1991 with
114 the Liberty Bell Award; and

115 WHEREAS, in addition to the Pharmacist of the Year in Georgia award he received from Phi
116 Delta Chi in 1978, he has also received numerous awards throughout the years for his
117 dedication and service to the pharmacy profession; and

118 WHEREAS, Bill Atkins is a shining example of the important impact that the efforts of one
119 individual can have on the citizens of his community, his state, his country, and even the
120 world, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that his superlative accomplishments be
121 recognized by the dedication of a bridge in his name in honor of his accomplishments.

122 **PART VI**

123 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
124 with the passing of William Travis Duke of Mableton; and

125 WHEREAS, he served as a State Representative, 1971-1975; was active in local and state
126 politics for over 30 years; and was one of the first Republicans elected in Cobb County; and

127 WHEREAS, a man of conviction and purpose, he was a member and/or officer of myriad
128 community service boards, including the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce,
129 Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority, Mable House, Cobb County Boys Club,
130 Open Gate Children's Shelter, Department of Family and Children Services, Georgian Club,
131 Cobb-Marietta Museum, Salvation Army, and the Jaycees; and

132 WHEREAS, William was united in love and marriage to Betty and was blessed with two
133 remarkable children, Jennifer and Derek, and three wonderful grandchildren; and

134 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
135 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
136 family and friends were admired by others; and

137 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
138 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he
139 made this world a better place in which to live; and

140 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, William Travis Duke will long be
141 remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal public servant and advocate
142 for his community will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him, and it is
143 only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial to his life be established.

144 **PART VII**

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

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

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

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

158 WHEREAS, some of his major accomplishments include building the first sanitary landfill
159 in 1973 and operating it for 23 years; building and paving the county roads; passing the first
160 Local Option Sales Tax Referendum in 1977 that rolled back county property tax and for the

161 first time and offered property tax relief to the local community; building the civic center,
162 pavilion, and the 911 Center; building a tunnel from the courthouse to the jail for security;
163 building and operating an animal shelter, 16 fire stations, and 126 bridges; and

164 WHEREAS, Mr. Parrish worked with Georgia Department of Transportation and the United
165 States Department of the Interior as well as the National Park Service and Congressman
166 Buddy Darden to get a better corridor through or around the Chickamauga Battlefield and
167 was largely responsible for getting the western route through Walker County established as
168 the relocated Highway 27 around the Chickamauga National Park; and

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

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

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

178 **PART VIII**

179 WHEREAS, Floyd C. and Mary McCants Jarrell gave a lifetime of service to the people of
180 Taylor County, Georgia, and had a long string of achievements and contributions to their
181 community; and

182 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that the lives of service of Floyd C. and Mary
183 McCants Jarrell be honored with a lasting memorial.

184

185 **PART VIII-A**

186 WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 27 traverses the entire western length of Georgia and is
187 approximately 352 miles long; and

188 WHEREAS, the highway connects 18 diverse counties in the common cause of economic
189 development and regionalism; and

190 WHEREAS, the state and federal government invested billions of dollars in constructing
191 U.S. Highway 27 and, by supporting travel and tourism investment along the corridor, the
192 state will be increasing the taxpayers' return on investment; and

193 WHEREAS, promoting tourism along U.S. Highway 27 supports efforts to dismantle
194 persistent poverty in Georgia as seven of the 18 counties along the highway are classified by
195 the University of Georgia as "counties with persistent poverty"; and

196 WHEREAS, the activities around the promotion of U.S. Highway 27 can serve as a
197 sustainable model for other corridor tourism and economic development efforts in Georgia;
198 and

199 WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 27 offers an attractive, alternate north-south transportation route
200 with authentic Georgia cultural heritage and scenic resources.

201 **PART VIII-B**

202 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recently lost one of her most distinguished public servants,
203 innovative legal minds, and civil rights advocate with the passing of the Honorable John H.
204 Ruffin, Jr.; and

205 WHEREAS, Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr., became the 62nd Judge of the Court of Appeals of
206 Georgia when he was administered the oath of office by Governor Zell Miller on August 24,
207 1994, after 33 years of practicing law and serving on the superior court bench; and

208 WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin was born and reared in Waynesboro, Burke County, Georgia, the
209 son of John H. Ruffin, Sr., and Anna Davis Ruffin, and he was a graduate of Waynesboro
210 High and Industrial School, Morehouse College, and Howard University School of Law in
211 Washington, D.C.; and

212 WHEREAS, he was admitted to the Georgia Bar on July 5, 1961; and

213 WHEREAS, he was appointed a Superior Court Judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit in
214 1986 by Governor Joe Frank Harris and he continued to serve as a superior court judge until
215 his appointment to the Court of Appeals; and

216 WHEREAS, in addition to being the first African American Superior Court Judge for the
217 Augusta Judicial Circuit, Judge Ruffin was also the first African American member of the

218 Augusta Bar Association, and the third African American and first African American Chief
219 Judge to serve on the Court of Appeals of Georgia; and

220 WHEREAS, in addition to his membership in the State Bar of Georgia, Judge Ruffin was a
221 member of the bars of the Supreme Court of Georgia, United States Supreme Court, United
222 States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and United States District Courts for the
223 Southern and Middle Districts of Georgia; and

224 WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin had many professional, civic and religious affiliations, including:
225 Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia; Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia;
226 Tenth Judicial Administrative District; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Institute of Continuing
227 Judicial Education; Georgia Commission on Gender Bias; Court Reform Committee,
228 Governor's Conference on Justice in Georgia; Georgia Association of Criminal Defense
229 Lawyers; Georgia Advisory Council to the Legal Services Program; Judicial Nominating
230 Commission; Georgia Conference of Black Lawyers, Inc.; State Bar Judicial Compensation
231 Committee; American Judicature Society; National Bar Association; American Bar
232 Association; Augusta Bar Association; and the Atlanta Bar Association; and

233 WHEREAS, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Council of Superior Court Judges and
234 was on track to become the first African American to serve as President of the Council of
235 Superior Court Judges of Georgia prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeals; and

236 WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin and his beautiful wife, Judith, had one son, Brinkley, and two
237 grandsons, Bryson and Myles; and

238 WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin and his family are members of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in
239 Augusta; and

240 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial to the life and outstanding
241 career of Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr., be established.

242 **PART VIII-C**

243 WHEREAS, Kermit Yates was a prominent citizen of the City of Cobbtown in Tattnall
244 County, Georgia; and

245 WHEREAS, Mr. Yates moved to the City of Cobbtown in the 1930s and departed this life
246 on October 26, 1995, after a long career as a mechanic and noted member of the Cobbtown
247 community; and

248 WHEREAS, he was the mayor of Cobbtown for many years; he was in charge of the city's
249 water department and was one of the founders of the water system; and

250 WHEREAS, he was also very active in the Sunlight Primitive Church, where he served as
251 a deacon and was also the caretaker for the church cemetery; and

252 WHEREAS, since Mr. Yates was a mechanic, he kept everyone "running" by working on
253 cars, trucks, and tractors; and

254 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial to this outstanding public
255 servant and community leader be established.

256 **PART IX**

257 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
258 GEORGIA that the members of this body honor the life and service of PFC Samuel
259 Stephens Lance and dedicate the intersection of Lafayette Road and SR 27 as the Steve
260 Lance Memorial Intersection.

261 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body honor Charlie Will Stapleton
262 by dedicating the bridge on SR 41 crossing Bear Creek in Webster County as the Charlie
263 Will Stapleton Bridge.

264 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body honor the outstanding heroism
265 and bravery of PFC Luther H. Story and dedicate the bridge on SR 26, over the
266 Kinchafoonee Creek in Marion County, as the Luther Story Bridge.

267 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body honor the outstanding
268 accomplishments of Forrest Laughlin Adair II and dedicate the bridge on US 78, the Stone
269 Mountain Freeway, at Park Place in Gwinnett County, as the Forrest Laughlin Adair II
270 Memorial Bridge.

271 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body join in recognizing and
272 honoring William Austin Atkins, Sr., for his outstanding service to his community and to the

273 State of Georgia and dedicate the bridge over I-75 North at Windy Hill Road, in Cobb
274 County, as the William Austin Atkins, Sr. Bridge.

275 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body join in honoring the life and
276 memory of William Travis Duke; express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing;
277 and dedicate the bridge over SR 41 at I-285, in Cobb County, as the W.T. (Travis) Duke
278 Memorial Bridge.

279 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body desires to honor Roy Parrish by dedicating the
280 portion of US 27/SR 1 from the city limits of Fort Oglethorpe south to Shields Crossing as
281 the Roy Parrish Parkway.

282 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body desires to honor Floyd C. and Mary McCants
283 Jarrell by dedicating the portion of Old Wire Road, SR 208, from the Talbot County line to
284 SR 19 South in Taylor County as the Floyd C. and Mary McCants Jarrell Memorial
285 Highway.

286 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia portion of U.S. Highway 27, located within
287 the limits of the Martha Berry Highway, be dedicated as the Scenic Hometown Highway for
288 tourism enhancement purposes.

289 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body celebrate the life and
290 outstanding career and many accomplishments of Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr., and dedicate the
291 portion of SR 25 beginning at SR 88 to the Burke County line as the Judge John H. Ruffin,
292 Jr. Memorial Highway.

293 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body desires to honor Mr. Kermit Yates by
294 dedicating a portion of SR 152 from the city limits of Cobbtown, Georgia, to the Coleman
295 Bridge as the Kermit Yates Memorial Highway.

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

299 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
300 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation, to the
301 family of PFC Samuel Stephens Lance, to the family of Charlie Will Stapleton, to the family

302 of Luther H. Story, to the family of Forrest Laughlin Adair II, to William Austin Atkins, Sr.,
303 to the family of William Travis Duke, to the family of Roy Parrish, to the family of Floyd
304 C. and Mary McCants Jarrell, to the family of Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr., and to the family
305 of Kermit Yates.