

House Resolution 719

By: Representative Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Charles "Chuck" Burris and dedicating a bridge in his memory; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the world lost a great leader and citizen with the passing of Charles "Chuck"  
4 Burris on February 12, 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, Charles "Chuck" Burris is known for the vital role he played in Georgia's  
6 history by serving as the first African-American Mayor of Stone Mountain; and

7 WHEREAS, from 1997 until 2001, he gave heroic service and provided tremendous  
8 leadership to the people of this State as the Mayor of Stone Mountain; and

9 WHEREAS, he was an outstanding student and attended Morehouse College in Atlanta,  
10 Georgia, as a Merrill Scholar; and

11 WHEREAS, as a young man, Chuck began his leadership career by actively working in  
12 politics, serving on the campaigns of Mayor Maynard Jackson and Ambassador and Mayor  
13 Andrew Young; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Burris was a dedicated public servant as demonstrated by his active service  
15 on the Stone Mountain City Council and his service as a public employee for the City of  
16 Atlanta and the Office of the Secretary of State; and

17 WHEREAS, following his term as Mayor of Stone Mountain, Charles Burris became the  
18 executive director of the Southern Regional Council, and he later worked at Lockheed Martin  
19 as a senior IT manager; and

20 WHEREAS, Chuck Burris was exceptionally active in civic and community organizations  
21 and he gave freely of his time, talents, gifts, and prayers; and

22 WHEREAS, he was a loving and devoted husband to his wonderful wife, Marcia Baird  
23 Burris; and

24 WHEREAS, those who had the rich privilege of knowing him will remember him as a man  
25 of great courage, strong faith, wholesome humor, and warm friendliness. They will  
26 remember him as a man quick to champion the right and to make clear his disapproval of the  
27 wrong. His solid integrity was eloquent, and his presence was a moral strength in any group;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, it is only proper to honor the memory of this life well-lived with a lasting  
30 memorial.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
32 GEORGIA that this body hereby joins in honoring the life and memory of Charles "Chuck"  
33 Burris and dedicates the bridge located at the interchange of East Ponce De Leon Avenue and  
34 SR 10/Memorial Drive as the Charles "Chuck" Burris Memorial Bridge.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
36 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Charles "Chuck" Burris  
37 Memorial Bridge.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Charles  
40 "Chuck" Burris and the Department of Transportation.