

Senate Resolution 1214

By: Senator Goggans of the 7th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mr. Ossie Davis and dedicating a road in his honor; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
4 with the passing of Mr. Ossie Davis; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Raiford Chatman Davis, better known as Ossie Davis, was born in Clinch  
6 County, Georgia, on December 18, 1917, and graduated from Center High School in 1934;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, he was a member of the Rose McClendon Players acting group in Harlem  
9 before enlisting with the United States Army to serve as a guardian of this nation's freedom  
10 and liberty during World War II; and

11 WHEREAS, during his time in the military, Mr. Davis wrote performances and put on shows  
12 for his fellow troops; and

13 WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Davis made his Broadway debut in *Jeb* in 1946 and went on  
14 to star in such plays as *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Jamaica*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, and *Purlie*  
15 *Victorious*; and

16 WHEREAS, he appeared in numerous film, television, and radio works, including *The Ossie*  
17 *Davis & Ruby Dee Story Hour*, *The Scalphunters*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Get on the Bus*, *The*  
18 *Stand*, *The Client*, *Roots: The Next Generation*, *Evening Shade*, and *With Ossie & Ruby*; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis authored several books for young readers, including *Escape to*  
20 *Freedom: A Play about Young Frederick Douglass*, *Langston*, and *Just Like Martin*; and

21 WHEREAS, he was well respected among Civil Rights activists for his work as master of  
22 ceremonies for the 1963 March on Washington, raising money for Freedom Riders arrested  
23 in the South for violating segregation laws, and championing the work of Paul Robeson,  
24 W.E.B. DuBois, A. Philip Randolph, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Frannie Lou  
25 Hammer; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including the  
27 Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award, the NAACP Image Award, the Marian  
28 Anderson Award, a Grammy Award for Spoken Word, the National Medal of Art, and the  
29 Kennedy Center Honors; and

30 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that a lasting memorial to Mr. Davis's life of service  
31 to this state be established.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
33 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that this body hereby joins in honoring the life and memory of  
34 Mr. Ossie Davis and dedicates the portion of U.S. Highway 1/State Route 4 Business within  
35 the city limits of Waycross in Ware County as the Ossie Davis Parkway.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
37 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Ossie Davis Parkway.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
39 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Mr. Ossie Davis and to the  
40 Department of Transportation.