

## Senate Resolution 96

By: Senator Golden of the 8th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson and dedicating a road in his  
2 memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Melvin Ernest Thompson was born on May 1, 1903, in Millen, Georgia, the  
4 beloved son of Eva Inez Edenfield Thompson and Henry J. Thompson; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor Thompson earned a bachelor's degree from Emory University and a  
6 master's degree from the University of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, he began his career in the field of education as a principal and coach at Emanuel  
8 County Institute, served as superintendent for the Hawkinsville Public School System,  
9 worked as a state school supervisor and an assistant state superintendent of schools, and  
10 served as secretary of the Executive Department under Governor Ellis Arnall; and

11 WHEREAS, after a two-year term as the state revenue commissioner, Governor Thompson  
12 was elected to this state's highest office in 1947; and

13 WHEREAS, during Governor Thompson's tenure as governor, the University of Georgia's  
14 veterinary medical school and the Georgia Institute of Technology's engineering building  
15 were constructed, educators received salary increases, and the state purchased Jekyll Island,  
16 which was turned into a successful, year-round public resort; and

17 WHEREAS, Governor Thompson was instrumental in the success of the City of Valdosta  
18 and Lowndes County, where his leadership as a founding member of the Valdosta-Lowndes  
19 County Industrial Authority spearheaded much of the urban development and planning for  
20 Valdosta and the surrounding areas, including the Azalea City Industrial Park; and

21 WHEREAS, a community leader and advocate, Governor Thompson served as chairman of  
22 the Education Committee for the Trade School Development Committee, president of the

23 Valdosta Rotary Club, and a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, WOW, Civitan,  
24 and Shriners; and

25 WHEREAS, Governor Thompson was united in love and marriage to his wife, Ann Newton  
26 Thompson, and he was blessed with a remarkable son, Melvin Ernest Thompson, Jr., and five  
27 grandchildren; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
29 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming a road in his  
30 memory.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
32 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of Interstate 75 in Lowndes County from the  
33 West Hill Avenue exit to the North Valdosta Road exit is dedicated as the Governor Melvin  
34 Ernest Thompson Memorial Highway.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
36 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Governor Melvin Ernest  
37 Thompson Memorial Highway.

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 Governor Melvin Ernest  
40 Thompson and to the Department of Transportation.