

## House Resolution 450

By: Representatives Rogers of the 10<sup>th</sup>, Gasaway of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Hawkins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Powell of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne Grant Purcell and dedicating a road in their  
2 honor; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne Grant Purcell are natives of Northeast Georgia  
4 and attended North Georgia College; and

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Purcell served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with  
6 the United States Army for over 30 years and has been recognized with numerous  
7 decorations for his service and heroism, including the Silver Star with Oak leaf Cluster, the  
8 Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the  
9 Purple Heart; and

10 WHEREAS, after his helicopter was shot down during a combat tour in Vietnam, Colonel  
11 Purcell was captured by the Viet Cong and spent 62 months as a prisoner of war, making him  
12 the highest ranking Army P.O.W. held in Vietnam; and

13 WHEREAS, during Colonel Purcell's captivity, Mrs. Purcell worked tirelessly to raise  
14 awareness of the plight of American missing and captive soldiers and became a founding  
15 member of the National League of Families of Prisoners of War and Men Missing in  
16 Southeast Asia; and

17 WHEREAS, in recognition of her unwavering service to missing and captive service  
18 personnel, all while raising the couple's five children, Mrs. Purcell was honored as Fort  
19 Benning's Military Wife of the Year in 1971; and

20 WHEREAS, upon his return to Georgia and the conclusion of his military career, Colonel  
21 Purcell continued to serve his community and this state as a Representative for the Georgia  
22 General Assembly, a member of the Georgia State Veterans Services Board, a member of the

23 board of directors for the Habersham County Chamber of Commerce, and a deacon for  
24 Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarksville; and

25 WHEREAS, this amazing and inspiring couple coauthored a book, *Love and Duty*, which  
26 recounts their experiences during the Vietnam War, and they have appeared on numerous  
27 radio and television talk shows to share their story of love, faith, and courage; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of  
29 these distinguished Georgians be appropriately recognized.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
31 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that State Route 197 in Habersham County from mile marker  
32 5 to milepost 16.84 is dedicated as the Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne Purcell Highway.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
34 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Colonel Benjamin H. and  
35 Anne Purcell Highway.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Colonel Benjamin H. and  
38 Anne Grant Purcell and to the Department of Transportation.