

House Resolution 46 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Holt of the 112th, Welch of the 110th, Dickerson of the 113th, and Rutledge of the 109th

A RESOLUTION

1 Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost a visionary, a gentleman, and a generous and kind man
4 with the passing of Mr. Pierce Lovett Cline on November 3, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, a community leader, Mr. Cline played a large role in establishing a campus of
6 Georgia Perimeter College in Newton County; and

7 WHEREAS, through his real estate development company, Cline Land Company, Mr. Cline
8 was responsible for developing several high quality neighborhoods; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Cline was an avid supporter of Project Adventure, an education program
10 for troubled teens, and his work has changed the lives of countless children in Newton
11 County and throughout Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, a graduate of Oxford College, Mr. Cline's legacy was recognized with the
13 school's lifetime achievement award, the R. Carl Chandler Award; and

14 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his supportive wife, Margie, for 54
15 wonderful years and was blessed with three remarkable children, Carol, Charles, and Paul,
16 six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Cline's significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable
18 patience and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the
19 citizens of this state earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and
22 service of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

23 **PART II**

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 WHEREAS, a community leader and advocate, Governor Thompson served as chairman of
43 the Education Committee for the Trade School Development Committee, president of the
44 Valdosta Rotary Club, and a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, WOW, Civitan,
45 and Shriners; and

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

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

52 **PART III**

53 WHEREAS, South Georgia is one of the few areas remaining in the United States where
54 there are miles of rural landscape, historic small towns, and abundant agricultural
55 operations; and

56 WHEREAS, the promotion of agri-tourism represents a readily available and effective tool
57 with which to spur economic development; and

58 WHEREAS, the portions of highways to be included in Georgia Grown Trail: 37 wind
59 through miles of centennial and family owned farms; pristine hunting plantations and unique
60 lodging; u-pick farms, farm stands, and hands-on educational farm experiences; farm to table
61 restaurants and establishments dedicated to preserving and sharing local recipes and
62 traditions; and time-honored and progressive crops and farming techniques; and

63 WHEREAS, dedication of this route as a scenic highway will promote economic well-being
64 through agri-tourism.

65 **PART IV**

66 WHEREAS, William Everett Bennett was born and raised in Forsyth County and graduated
67 from Cumming High School; and

68 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
69 States Army as an instructor in the Officers School at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and

70 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett served as chairman of the board for LEADER, a local teen safe
71 driving education organization, as well as the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Forsyth
72 County, and he was a program advocate for the Forsyth County Certified Literacy
73 Community; and

74 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett served on the Georgia Baptist Healthcare System Board of
75 Directors, where he was instrumental in the purchase of the old Lakeside Hospital and its
76 conversion to Baptist North Hospital; on the board of visitors for Georgia Baptist College of
77 Nursing at Mercer University; and on the Hawaii Baptist Academy Board of Directors; and

78 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett continued in generous service to the community by providing a
79 complimentary meeting space located on the campus of Baptist Medical Center, now known
80 as Northside Hospital-Forsyth, and the Everett and Teresa Bennett Education Center is host
81 to countless assemblies that benefit the community in ways beyond measure; and

82 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett championed and advocated for the ongoing expansion of the health
83 care architecture in Forsyth County through his service on the Northside Hospital Foundation
84 Board, and his legacy as a staunch supporter for bringing quality health care services to
85 Forsyth County will benefit the citizens of that region for generations; and

86 WHEREAS, he was a member of the Rotary Club of Johns Creek and received numerous
87 honors, including the Lee Arrendale Award and being named a multiple Paul Harris Fellow,
88 a Will Watt Fellow, and a Hue Thomas Fellow; and

89 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Bennett was an active member of Johns
90 Creek Baptist Church where he served as a deacon emeritus; and

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

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

97 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Bennett will long be remembered for
98 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and friend will
99 be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him; and

100 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to dedicate the intersection of Georgia Route 400 and
101 State Route 141 in Forsyth County as the William Everett Bennett Memorial Interchange as
102 an appropriate tribute to this outstanding Georgian.

103

PART V

104 WHEREAS, Mr. William E. "Billy" Hubbard has long been recognized by the citizens of this
105 state for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to
106 the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

107 WHEREAS, Mr. Hubbard dedicated 36 years to Norfolk Southern Railway Company in
108 Gordon, Georgia, and rose to the rank of Track Supervisor and Track Inspector; and

109 WHEREAS, in the early 1960's, Mr. Hubbard helped supervise the installation of long heavy
110 welded track for coal movement between Birmingham, Alabama, and Georgia Power's Lake
111 Sinclair Power Plant; and

112 WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in assisting negotiations between the railroad and the
113 City of Gordon on several projects and assisted the city in obtaining a copy of an original
114 photograph of the first president of the Central Georgia Railroad and the city's namesake,
115 William Washington Gordon, which was used in painting two portraits that hang in city
116 buildings; and

117 WHEREAS, an active community leader, Mr. Hubbard served two terms with the Ivey City
118 Council, is a 32 degree Mason with Gordon Mason Lodge # 240, and is a member of Gordon
119 United Methodist Church and life member of American Railway Engineering; and

120 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
121 this distinguished Georgian be recognized with the naming of two bridges in his honor.

122 **PART VI**

123 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and with the passing of Mr.
124 K.S. "Bubba" Nobles, Jr.; and

125 WHEREAS, a native of Twiggs County, Georgia, Mr. Nobles was a lifelong farmer and
126 known around town as an unofficial veterinarian, often called upon by neighbors to help birth
127 livestock or assist sick or injured animals; and

128 WHEREAS, Mr. Nobles also served as a county school bus driver for many years and ran
129 a barbershop at night and on weekends, which was known as a great gathering place for 30
130 years; and

131 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to Lois T. Nobles for 60 wonderful years
132 and was the beloved father of nine remarkable children; and

133 WHEREAS, a leader of his community, Mr. Nobles worked on campaigns of many local
134 candidates, served on the Georgia Eighth Congressional District Advisory Council, was on

135 the Board of Trustees at Twiggs Academy, and served as president of the Democratic Party
136 of Twiggs County for a number of years; and

137 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
138 this distinguished Georgian be recognized with the naming of a bridge in his honor.

139 **PART VII**

140 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones Daniel Brooks, Mr. James Joe Brooks, and Mr. Freeman Charles
141 Brooks have long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital role that they have
142 played in leadership and their deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of
143 Georgia; and

144 WHEREAS, the Brooks brothers were born to James Joe Brooks, Sr., and Lessie Jones
145 Brooks in Gordon, Georgia, where they have continued to live their entire lives; and

146 WHEREAS, the Brooks brothers dedicated a total of 111 years to the Central of Georgia, the
147 Southern, and the Norfolk Southern Railway companies, each rising to the position of
148 engineer; and

149 WHEREAS, Mr. James Joe Brooks, Jr., known as J.J. Brooks, was the first Brooks brother
150 to enter the railroad business, working from 1937 to 1981; and

151 WHEREAS, J.J. Brooks served as sergeant and engineer with the Railroad Battalion in India
152 during World War II and was the last engineer for the famous passenger train the Nancy
153 Hanks, which traveled from Savannah to Atlanta and back on a daily basis; and

154 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones Daniel Brooks, known as J.D. Brooks, worked from 1940 to 1974,
155 starting with his first job shoveling coal on a steam locomotive and serving as an engineer
156 with the Railroad Battalion in France during World War II, for which he received several
157 honors; and

158 WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman Charles Brooks, known as F.C. Brooks, worked from 1950 to
159 1983, and saved a man's life in Griswoldville, Georgia, after applying the emergency brake
160 and crawling onto the front step of the moving train to wave the man to safety; and

161 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
162 these distinguished Georgians be recognized with the naming of two bridges in their honor.

163 **PART VIII**

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

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

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

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

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

181 WHEREAS, upon his return to Georgia and the conclusion of his military career, Colonel
182 Purcell continued to serve his community and this state as a Representative for the Georgia
183 General Assembly, a member of the Georgia State Veterans Services Board, a member of the
184 board of directors for the Habersham County Chamber of Commerce, and a deacon for
185 Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarksville; and

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

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

191 **PART IX**

192 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its most promising young citizens with the
193 tragic passing of Leanna Nicole Craft on November 23, 1997; and

194 WHEREAS, Leanna was born on September 23, 1981, in Thomaston, Georgia, and was the
195 beloved daughter of William and Alida Craft and cherished sister of Melissa Beth Craft; and

196 WHEREAS, a leader at Upson-Lee High School, Leanna served as a student council
197 representative and was a member of the National Honor Society, the Beta Club, the Y-Club,
198 and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and

199 WHEREAS, Leanna was a dedicated and talented athlete, earning letters as a member of both
200 the softball team and tennis team, and lighting up the dance floor as a member of the U-L
201 Knights Dance Line; and

202 WHEREAS, Leanna cared about her church and community, being selected for the 1998
203 class of Youth Leadership Upson, serving as a Little Sister for the Junior Miss Pageant, and
204 participating in local summer mission trips; and

205 WHEREAS, a generous and passionate young woman, Leanna will long be remembered for
206 her love of family and friendship, and this loyal daughter, sister, and friend is deserving of
207 an intersection named in her honor.

208 **PART X**

209 WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put
210 their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the
211 freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

212 WHEREAS, Major W. David Gray was raised in Walton County, Georgia, and was a 1992
213 graduate of Loganville High School; and

214 WHEREAS, Major Gray served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the
215 United States Air Force and was a member of the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron; and

216 WHEREAS, he was stationed in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom when
217 he was killed by a suicide bomb in the Kunar province; and

218 WHEREAS, Major Gray demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting democracy
219 and gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the well-being of his fellow man; and

220 WHEREAS, it is important that fallen soldiers are thanked for their selfless service to this
221 nation and honored for their unyielding commitment to protecting the people and ideals of
222 the United States; and

223 WHEREAS, Major Gray embodied the spirit of service and found meaning in something
224 greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the sacrifice of this
225 remarkable and distinguished American be honored appropriately.

226 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
227 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on State Route 11 over Interstate 20 in Newton
228 County is dedicated as the Pierce Lovett Cline Memorial Bridge.

229 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Interstate 75 in
230 Lowndes County from the West Hill Avenue exit to the North Valdosta Road exit is
231 dedicated as the Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson Memorial Highway.

232 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 37 from
233 Homerville to the Alabama state line and the portion of State Route 76 from Nashville in
234 Berrien County to the Florida state line in Brooks County are dedicated as the Georgia
235 Grown Trail: 37.

236 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Georgia Route 400
237 and State Route 141 in Forsyth County is dedicated as the William Everett Bennett Memorial
238 Interchange.

239 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the eastbound and westbound bridges
240 on the Fall Line Freeway at NeSmith Road between the City of Ivey and U.S. 441 in
241 Wilkinson County are dedicated as the William E. "Billy" Hubbard Bridges.

242 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Ga. 358 over Interstate
243 16 in Twiggs County is dedicated as the K.S. "Bubba" Nobles, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

244 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the eastbound and westbound bridges
245 on the Fall Line Freeway over the railroad, located between Highway 18 and Highway 57
246 in Wilkinson County, are dedicated as the Brooks Brothers' Bridges.

247 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that State Route 197 in Habersham County
248 from mile marker 5 to milepost 16.84 is dedicated as the Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne
249 Purcell Highway.

250 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Highway 42 and
251 Highway 74 in Monroe County is dedicated as the Leanna Nicole Craft Memorial
252 Intersection.

253 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Georgia Highway 20
254 in Walton County from its intersection with Highway 78 in Loganville to the Rockdale
255 County line is dedicated as the Major W. David Gray Memorial Highway.

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

259 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
260 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of
261 Transportation; to Mr. William E. "Billy" Hubbard; to Mr. Jones Daniel Brooks, Mr. James
262 Joe Brooks, and Mr. Freeman Charles Brooks; to Colonel Benjamin H. and Anne Grant
263 Purcell; and to the families of Mr. Pierce Lovett Cline, Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson,
264 Mr. William Everett Bennett, Mr. K.S. "Bubba" Nobles, Jr., Leanna Nicole Craft, and Major
265 W. David Gray.