

Senate Resolution 293

By: Senator Gooch of the 51st

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

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

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Ralph A. Pierce was born on October 17, 1912, in Lumpkin County,
4 Georgia, and during his lifetime he played a vital role in leadership and demonstrated a deep
5 personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, a lifelong Lumpkin County resident, Mr. Pierce and his family operated C.D.
7 Pierce and Son Grocery at the junction of Ga. 52 and Ga. 115 for 64 years; and

8 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Pierce was a member of Wahoo Baptist
9 Church and taught the adult Sunday school class for over 50 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Pierce served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the
11 United States Army, valiantly and courageously participating in the Normandy invasion as
12 a TEC4 during World War II; and

13 WHEREAS, prior to his passing on August 9, 2012, Mr. Pierce was the oldest living veteran
14 in Lumpkin County at the age of 99 years, nine months, and 23 days; and

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

18 **PART II**

19 WHEREAS, Judge William Jeffrey Lowe was born on April 12, 1958, in Lumpkin County,
20 Georgia, and upon his graduation from Lumpkin County High School, he enrolled in the
21 police academy and began work as a Lumpkin County deputy sheriff; and

22 WHEREAS, he dedicated 21 years to protecting and serving the citizens of Georgia as a
23 deputy in Lumpkin and Forsyth counties, until he was asked to serve as Lumpkin County's
24 Assistant Magistrate Judge; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1996, Judge Lowe was elected as a Magistrate Judge and served until his
26 passing in 2012; and

27 WHEREAS, his leadership and vision were instrumental to numerous organizations,
28 including as a charter member and president of the Georgia Jail Association and as a
29 representative of the Ninth Circuit on the Council of Magistrate Court Judges; and

30 WHEREAS, Judge Lowe actively gave back to his community through his work with the
31 local Jaycees, the Lions Club, Habitat for Humanity, Woodmen of the World, and Blue
32 Mountain Lodge #38; and

33 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Judge Lowe was a lifetime member of Antioch
34 Baptist Church; and

35 WHEREAS, Judge Lowe was united in love and marriage to his supportive and caring wife,
36 Debbie, and the couple were inducted into the Order of the Eastern Star; and

37 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
38 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming an
39 intersection in his memory.

40 **PART III**

41 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost a hero and good Samaritan with the passing of Mr.
42 Dekai Amonrasi on July 31, 2012; and

43 WHEREAS, Mr. Amonrasi was born on February 26, 1964, the beloved son of Donald
44 Fount and Fonseca Richards; and

45 WHEREAS, a true hero, Mr. Amonrasi selflessly responded to action when he witnessed a
46 fellow driver's car hit a guard rail and flip over a bridge on Roosevelt Highway and onto train
47 tracks below; and

48 WHEREAS, with only the thought of aiding another in need, Mr. Amonrasi exited his
49 vehicle to provide assistance to the accident victim and lost his life in his attempt to save
50 another's; and

51 WHEREAS, Mr. Amonrasi's willingness to sacrifice his own life to help another in need
52 serves as the epitome of courage and bravery; and

53 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the heroic actions of this remarkable
54 Georgian be appropriately recognized by naming a bridge in his memory.

55 **PART IV**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76 Valdosta Rotary Club, and a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, WOW, Civitan,
77 and Shriners; and

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

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

84 **PART V**

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

88 WHEREAS, Sergeant John A. Franklin was born on January 25, 1942, and served as a
89 guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army with C. Company
90 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division; and

91 WHEREAS, a native of Rossville, Georgia, Sergeant Franklin gave the ultimate sacrifice on
92 April 26, 1986, when he was killed in action in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam; and

93 WHEREAS, Sergeant Franklin demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting
94 democracy and gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the well-being of his fellow man; and

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

98 WHEREAS, Sergeant Franklin embodied the spirit of service and found meaning in
99 something greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the sacrifice of
100 this remarkable and distinguished American be honored appropriately.

101 **PART VI**

102 WHEREAS, Mr. Fernando Joseph Torras was born in 1885 in Brunswick, Georgia, and
103 during his lifetime he played a vital role in leadership and demonstrated a deep personal
104 commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia and Glynn County; and

105 WHEREAS, Mr. Torras served as Brunswick's city manager and was the main engineer for
106 the causeway that was completed in 1924 to connect Brunswick to St. Simons Island and Sea
107 Island; and

108 WHEREAS, a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Mr. Torras built rail lines,
109 bridges, and roads in the jungles of South America before tackling the causeway project
110 which alleviated the need for an hour ferry ride to get to St. Simons from the mainland; and

111 WHEREAS, at a time when others thought the construction of a causeway was impossible,
112 Mr. Torras had the foresight and experience to realize that the soft mud of the marsh beds
113 could be dredged to make a stable roadbed; and

114 WHEREAS, the causeway was completed and open to vehicular traffic on June 26, 1924,
115 after one year and one month of construction and was recognized as an engineering feat of
116 history; and

117 WHEREAS, the building of the causeway was an entirely local project which was
118 undertaken by the 25,000 people of Glynn County without state or federal aid; and

119 WHEREAS, during his role as city manager, Mr. Torras oversaw the development of the
120 Howard Coffin Recreation Center, the Edo Miller Ball Park, numerous public boat marinas,
121 and other developments within Brunswick; and

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

125 **PART VII**

126 WHEREAS, during her lifetime, Mrs. Beulah Rucker Oliver demonstrated deep personal
127 commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia and made exceptional contributions to
128 society; and

129 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker set an example for all women with her determination to make the
130 world a better place; and

131 WHEREAS, in 1944, at the age of 56, Mrs. Rucker earned a degree from Savannah State
132 College, while teaching public and private school, giving music lessons, and making and
133 selling hats; and

134 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker opened The Industrial School in Hall County and later opened two
135 schools in Gainesville, one of which was eventually merged with the City of Gainesville
136 School District in the 1950s; and

137 WHEREAS, a dedicated educator and philanthropist, Mrs. Rucker was the first person to
138 receive a Rosenwald Grant for her school, was the first woman to establish a school in
139 Gainesville, and was the first person to start a Veterans Night School in this state; and

140 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker dedicated her entire life to "Light a Torch of Instruction"; and

141 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
142 this distinguished Georgian be recognized with the naming of an intersection in her honor.

143 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
144 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of Ga. 52 in Lumpkin County from Ga. 115 to
145 the Hall County line is dedicated as the Ralph A. Pierce Memorial Highway.

146 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of U.S. Highway 19
147 and Cavender Creek Road in Lumpkin County is dedicated as the Judge William Jeffrey
148 Lowe Memorial Intersection.

149 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 29 over the
150 train tracks near Roosevelt Highway and Welcome All Road in Fulton County is dedicated
151 as the Dekai Amonrasi Memorial Bridge.

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

155 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Battlefield
156 Parkway and Dietz Road in Catoosa County is dedicated as the Sergeant John A. Franklin
157 Memorial Intersection.

158 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that GA25-Spur E. from Brunswick to St.
159 Simons Island in Glynn County is dedicated as the F.J. Torras Causeway.

160 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Highway 129 and
161 Athens Street in Hall County is dedicated as the Beulah Rucker Oliver Memorial
162 Intersection.

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

166 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
167 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and the
168 families of Mr. Ralph A. Pierce, Judge William Jeffrey Lowe, Mr. Dekai Amonrasi,
169 Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson, Sergeant John A. Franklin, Mr. Fernando Joseph Torras,
170 and Mrs. Beulah Rucker Oliver.