

House Resolution 1160

By: Representatives Kaiser of the 59th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Waites of the 60th, Geisinger of the 48th, Brooks of the 55th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mr. Rodney Mims Cook and dedicating a road in his memory; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Rodney Mims Cook has long been recognized by the citizens of this state
4 for the vital role that he played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the
5 welfare of the citizens of Georgia, and his passing left a void in the hearts of his family,
6 friends, and neighbors; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was born in Atlanta, the beloved son of the late James Leslie and
8 Bess Mims Cook, and he graduated summa cum laude and as class valedictorian from
9 Washington and Lee University; and

10 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
11 States Navy as a lieutenant in the Pacific Theater during World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, one of the first Republicans to be elected in Georgia since Reconstruction, Mr.
13 Cook served simultaneously as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives and as
14 an at-large member of the Atlanta City Council, helping to foster Atlanta's exponential
15 growth during the 1960s and 1970s; and

16 WHEREAS, as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives he served on the
17 appropriations, ways and means, and industry committees, served as chairman of the Georgia
18 Republican Party, and was the party nominee for Governor in 1978; and

19 WHEREAS, mentored by Martin Luther King, Sr., and Mayors William Hartsfield and Ivan
20 Allen, Mr. Cook fought to integrate Atlanta neighborhoods with his notable speech on the
21 floor of the Atlanta City Council urging the tearing down of the "Peyton Wall" which was
22 a barrier built to stop black citizens from moving into a white section of Atlanta and was
23 referred to as the "Berlin Wall" by the black community; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary life of this
25 distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating a road in his memory.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of Interstate 75 where it merges with Interstate
28 85 at Exit 242 in Fulton County is dedicated as the Rodney Mims Cook Memorial Highway.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
30 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Rodney Mims Cook Memorial
31 Highway.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Mr. Rodney
34 Mims Cook and to the Department of Transportation.