

House Resolution 1184

By: Representative Greene of the 151st

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Mr. William Riley Curry and dedicating a bridge in his memory; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. William Riley Curry served in the Georgia General Assembly during the
4 1910s and 1920s and entertained many legislators and governors in his home, and he
5 organized and was president and majority stockholder of People's Bank of Shellman, now
6 known as First State Bank of Randolph County, and was a major benefactor of the Georgia
7 Baptist Children's Home, where he established the Nena Ferguson Curry Children's Fund;
8 and at the height of the Great Depression, he established the \$100,000.00 Curry Choir of
9 Christianity at Mercer University, which act of philanthropy allowed Mercer University to
10 remain open at a time when many private universities were forced to close, and he developed
11 railroad lines throughout the South with other capitalists, who were also guests at the family
12 home; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Curry built the Curry Home in Shellman, Georgia, in 1906; the home was
14 designed by the architectural firm of Dennis & Dennis of Macon and was constructed by
15 W.I. Jay & Co.; and

16 WHEREAS, he remodeled the imposing, two-story, white clapboard home in 1926, and in
17 1963 James Riley Curry, Sr., inherited the property and commissioned a vast renovation,
18 which was undertaken by the Hugh Gaston Architecture Co. of Albany; and

19 WHEREAS, the current owner, William Scott Curry II, purchased the home from the heirs
20 of the J. R. Curry, Sr., Estate in 2012, and in April of 2013 he began an extensive renovation
21 and remodel of the home; and

22 WHEREAS, the many interesting historic features of the house include fluted ionic columns,
23 unusually fine, leaded cut-glass windows surrounding the massive front doorway, richly

24 colored stained-glass windows, intricately designed bronze ceilings, mahogany wainscoting
25 of the front entrance hall and formal dining room, and the crystal chandelier in the foyer; and

26 WHEREAS, the home in Randolph County stands as a fine monument to Mr. William Riley
27 Curry, a successful Georgia entrepreneur and great philanthropist.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
29 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on U.S. Route 82 over Pachitla Creek in
30 Randolph County is dedicated as the William Riley Curry Bridge.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
32 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the William Riley Curry Bridge.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Mr. William
35 Riley Curry and to the Department of Transportation.