

Senate Resolution 937

By: Senator Stone of the 23rd

**ADOPTED SENATE**

**A RESOLUTION**

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

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Albert Sidney "Sid" Newton has long been recognized by the citizens of  
4 this state for the vital role that he played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to  
5 the 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. Newton was born in Jenkins County, the beloved son of the late John Cleve  
8 and Ruby Aycock Newton, and he graduated from the University of Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, one of Jenkins County's most successful farmers and dairymen, Mr. Newton  
10 was a member of the Jenkins County Farm Bureau and the Georgia Dairy Association; and

11 WHEREAS, he ably and adeptly served three terms in the Georgia House of Representatives  
12 and one term in the Georgia Senate, championing the interests of his constituents; and

13 WHEREAS, prior to joining the Georgia Senate in 1961, Mr. Newton was a member of the  
14 Jenkins County Board of Commissioners for 20 years and served as chairperson for 14 years;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, his leadership was invaluable as vice president and director of the Bank of  
17 Millen, director of Millen Warehouse Company, president of Millen Industrial Development  
18 Company, president of the Jenkins County Authority, and vice president of John Wilson  
19 Company; and

20 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Newton was a member of Millen  
21 Methodist Church, where he was active in Bible Class, and was a member of the Millen  
22 Rotary Club; and

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

25 **PART II**

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

29 WHEREAS, a native of Douglas County, Georgia, Private First Class Melvin Johnson was  
30 born on February 16, 1949, the beloved son of Loren Johnson; and

31 WHEREAS, Private First Class Johnson was a loving brother to his siblings, Willie, Tony,  
32 and Vicki; and

33 WHEREAS, a graduate of R.L. Cousins High School in 1966, Private First Class Johnson  
34 became an infantry soldier with the United States Armed Forces in November, 1968; and

35 WHEREAS, he lost his life in combat protecting the freedoms that all United States citizens  
36 cherish in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam; and

37 WHEREAS, Private First Class Johnson was the first African American soldier from  
38 Douglasville, Georgia, to die in Vietnam and was the second fallen soldier from Douglas  
39 County; and

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

42 **PART III**

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

46 WHEREAS, Colonel Lynn "L.E." Witt, Jr., served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and  
47 liberty with the United States Army Air Corps and served as a fighter squadron leader in the  
48 Allied campaign to take back Japanese held islands in the southwest pacific during World  
49 War II; and

50 WHEREAS, he logged 905 combat hours and flew 326 combat missions, more missions than  
51 any other American pilot during World War II, and received a Distinguished Service Cross  
52 for sinking a Japanese destroyer using only his plane's guns; and

53 WHEREAS, Colonel Witt was also recognized with the Silver Star, the Air Medal with eight  
54 oak leaf clusters, the American Campaign medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with  
55 one Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the Philippine  
56 Liberation Ribbon, and the Philippine Independence Ribbon; and

57 WHEREAS, during his 30 year career with the military, Colonel Witt spent five at Robins  
58 Air Force Base as Head of Air Force Recruiting; and

59 WHEREAS, Colonel Witt embodied the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in  
60 something greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding  
61 accomplishments and sacrifices of this remarkable and distinguished American be honored  
62 appropriately.

63 **PART IV**

64 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated public  
65 servants and leaders with the passing of Mr. Joe E. Brown in 1985; and

66 WHEREAS, Mr. Brown's leadership began in Liberty County where he was an active  
67 member of the Boy Scouts of America program and was the county's first Boy Scout to  
68 obtain the prestigious Eagle Scout ranking; and

69 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
70 States Armed Forces and the United States National Guard, retiring from service with the  
71 rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

72 WHEREAS, Mr. Brown began his career as a public servant in 1946 with the Georgia  
73 Department of Transportation and dedicated 34 years to the department, retiring in 1979 as  
74 a Right of Way Engineer; and

75 WHEREAS, after his retirement, Mr. Brown was elected to the Georgia House of  
76 Representatives, where he served on the retirement, industry, and defense and veteran's  
77 affairs committees and earned a reputation as a skillful and concerned legislator; and

78 WHEREAS, Mr. Brown exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine  
79 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties and it is abundantly fitting and  
80 proper that a road be dedicated in his honor.

81 **PART V**

82 WHEREAS, the Watters District area and the Shannon community represent one of the  
83 original and most concentrated industrial areas of unincorporated Floyd County in Georgia;  
84 and

85 WHEREAS, around the time of the Civil War, Mr. Shannon migrated to northeast Floyd  
86 County and established a large commercial sawmill alongside the railroad north of Rome;  
87 and

88 WHEREAS, as a result of Mr. Shannon's sawmill, the area became known as Shannon, and  
89 later, the area was home to the Brighton Cotton Mill, Floyd County's largest employer with  
90 more than 1,500 employees; and

91 WHEREAS, the Shannon community is now home to a Lowe's Distribution Center and two  
92 county owned industrial parks; and

93 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that a road be dedicated in honor of this  
94 important and historical industrial area.

95 **PART VI**

96 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
97 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of Ga. 67 in Jenkins County from the  
98 southernmost point of the Ogeechee River Bridges to its intersection with Ga. 121 is  
99 dedicated as the Albert Sidney "Sid" Newton Memorial Highway.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 166 over  
101 Anneewakee Creek in Douglas County is dedicated as the Private First Class Melvin Johnson  
102 Memorial Bridge.

103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 166 in  
104 Carroll County from State Route 100 to its intersection with Garrett Circle is dedicated as  
105 the Col. L.E. Witt, Jr., Memorial Highway.

106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Interstate 95 in Liberty  
107 County from Exit 76 north to the Bryan County line is dedicated as the Joe E. Brown  
108 Memorial Highway.

109 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the corridor of State Route 53 from  
110 the Gordon County line to the city limits of Rome is dedicated as the Shannon Industrial  
111 Parkway.

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

115 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
116 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation; to the  
117 families of Mr. Albert Sidney "Sid" Newton, Private First Class Melvin Johnson, Colonel  
118 Lynn "L.E." Witt, Jr., and Mr. Joe E. Brown; and to the Shannon Industrial Parkway  
119 Committee.