

## Senate Resolution 925

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Parent of the 42nd, Butler of the 55th, Tate of the 38th, Cowsert of the 46th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Senator Michael Polak and dedicating a bridge in his honor; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Senator Michael Polak is widely recognized by the citizens of this state for the  
4 vital role that he plays in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the  
5 citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Polak served ten years in the Georgia State Senate and Georgia House  
7 of Representatives, where he played a pivotal role serving the citizens of Georgia, was  
8 elected and re-elected five times by the citizens of DeKalb County, and retired in 2002; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Polak was recognized for his legislative efforts by a broad spectrum of  
10 organizations with more than 20 Legislator of the Year and Leadership awards for his  
11 commitment to improving the lives of Georgians, especially senior citizens, veterans,  
12 children in foster care, individuals living with disabilities, and the economically  
13 disadvantaged; and

14 WHEREAS, known by his fellow members of the General Assembly as the father of ethics  
15 in Georgia, Senator Polak was recognized as a leader in calling for ethics and campaign  
16 finance reform, on which many of Georgia's current laws are based; and

17 WHEREAS, as a freshman in the Senate he was one of a few in history to receive a  
18 chairmanship position during his first term; and

19 WHEREAS, as chairman of the Senate Science, Technology, and Defense Committee and  
20 Sub Committee on Appropriations for Science and Technology, Senator Polak became a  
21 leader in technology policy, paving the way for secure digital transactions, as well as the  
22 creation of the Georgia Technology Authority; and

23 WHEREAS, one of his more significant, yet not well known, achievements includes his  
24 authorship and successful passage of legislation as a member of the House of Representatives  
25 to place Governor Zell Miller's HOPE Scholarship program into law, which stands as one of  
26 the most significant educational initiatives in the history of Georgia; and

27 WHEREAS, his time in the General Assembly was marked by his thoughtful deliberation  
28 and willingness to cross party lines, challenge the status quo, and persevere difficult  
29 challenges facing Georgia citizens; and

30 WHEREAS, Senator Polak has continued his commitment to Georgia and sharing his passion  
31 for politics as an adjunct professor teaching political science at the Georgia Institute of  
32 Technology; and

33 WHEREAS, he lives in Decatur, Georgia, and has been united in love and marriage to his  
34 wife, Holly Lanford, for 22 wonderful years and been blessed with two remarkable sons,  
35 Chase and Joshua; and

36 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary life of this  
37 distinguished Georgian be recognized by dedicating a bridge in his former legislative district  
38 in his honor.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
40 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on State Route 8/State Route 10 over Lullwater  
41 Creek in Fulton County is dedicated as the Michael Polak Bridge.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
43 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Michael Polak Bridge.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
45 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Michael Polak  
46 and to the Department of Transportation.