

House Resolution 1461

By: Representatives Hatchett of the 150th and Epps of the 144th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mr. Mack Fitzgerald and dedicating an intersection in his honor; and for other
2 purposes.

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

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Mack Fitzgerald served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty
7 with the United States Air Force, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans
8 during World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Fitzgerald received training as a flight engineer and gunner aboard a B-24
10 Liberator; and

11 WHEREAS, he was a member of "Operation Tidal Wave," with the mission of flying at low
12 altitudes over Ploiesti, Romania, in order to destroy the enemy force's oil refineries; and

13 WHEREAS, after training for the low-level bombing mission in the Sahara Desert, Mr.
14 Fitzgerald's bomber was one of 178 aircraft in what would become known as "Black
15 Sunday," marking the worst single-day loss in the war; and

16 WHEREAS, during the mission, Mr. Fitzgerald's aircraft was hit by enemy fire and lost two
17 engines, forcing an emergency landing in an open field; and

18 WHEREAS, he was a prisoner of war for 13 months along with over 100 other Americans;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, he retired from the military after 25 years of dedicated and selfless service and
21 was recognized with numerous medals, including the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying
22 Cross, Air Medal, and the POW Medal; and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
24 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating an intersection in his
25 honor.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the intersection of Highway 257 and the Highway 441
28 Bypass in Laurens County is dedicated as the TSGT Mack Fitzgerald Intersection.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
30 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the TSGT Mack Fitzgerald
31 Intersection.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mr.
34 Mack Fitzgerald and to the Department of Transportation.