

Senate Resolution 863

By: Senator Gooch of the 51st

**ADOPTED SENATE**

**A RESOLUTION**

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

2 **PART I**

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, veterans of the Vietnam War demonstrated a deep personal commitment to  
7 protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice their own personal safety and comfort  
8 to ensure the well-being of their fellow man; and

9 WHEREAS, these brave men and women served as guardians of this nation's freedom and  
10 liberty and have diligently and conscientiously undergone intensive and rigorous training in  
11 order to serve their country with honor and distinction during times of war and peace; and

12 WHEREAS, it is important that Vietnam veterans are thanked for their selfless service to this  
13 nation and honored for their unyielding commitment to protecting the people and ideals of  
14 the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, these individuals embody the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in  
16 something greater than themselves, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the  
17 outstanding accomplishments and sacrifices of these remarkable and distinguished  
18 Americans be honored appropriately.

19 **PART II**

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

23 WHEREAS, both Major General William "Bill" K. Gayler and Brigadier General John  
24 "Pete" P. Johnson have demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting democracy  
25 and a willingness to sacrifice their own personal safety and comfort to ensure the well-being  
26 of their fellow man; and

27 WHEREAS, the son of Max and Pat Gayler of Chattoogaville, Georgia, Major General  
28 Gayler graduated from North Georgia College, entered the United States Armed Forces in  
29 the aviation branch, and currently serves as Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army  
30 Europe, and Commander, U.S. Army NATO, in Wiesbaden, Germany; and

31 WHEREAS, the son of Paulie and Aurora Johnson of Chattoogaville, Georgia, Brigadier  
32 General Johnson graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, entered  
33 the United States Armed Forces in the infantry branch, and currently serves as Director,  
34 Training Directorate, G3/5/7 Operations and Plans, United States Department of the Army  
35 at the Pentagon; and

36 WHEREAS, both men served tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat areas; have  
37 commanded companies, battalions, and brigades; and have served in the position of Chief  
38 of Staff, 101st Air Assault Division; and

39 WHEREAS, both Major General Gayler and Brigadier General Johnson were promoted to  
40 the rank of Brigadier General at the same time, had fathers who were neighbors and close  
41 friends growing up in Chattoogaville, and come from military families; and

42 WHEREAS, the Gayler and Johnson families have a combined 155 years and counting of  
43 military service to this nation; and

44 WHEREAS, Major General Gayler and Brigadier General Johnson embody the spirit of  
45 service, willing to find meaning in something greater than themselves, and it is abundantly  
46 fitting and proper that these remarkable and distinguished Americans be recognized  
47 appropriately by dedicating a road in their honor.

48 **PART III**

49 WHEREAS, Mr. L. Wesley Smith was born in Whitwell, Tennessee, to J.W. and Billie Faye  
50 Moiser Smith but called Ringgold, Georgia, home for 43 years; and

51 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was widely recognized for the vital role that he played in leadership  
52 and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

53 WHEREAS, he dedicated his career to the banking industry for more than 50 years, starting  
54 as a bank teller for Pioneer Bank in 1965 and retiring as CEO and chairman of Northwest  
55 Georgia Bank where he served on the board for as long as his health permitted; and

56 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a former chairman of the Georgia Bankers Association and also  
57 served on the American Bankers Association Board of Directors; and

58 WHEREAS, he understood and demonstrated the importance of serving one's community  
59 by serving as deacon at several area churches and also was a member of Gathering Church  
60 in Fort Oglethorpe; and

61 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a strong community supporter and civic leader, helping to found  
62 the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce and through his leadership the Northwest  
63 Georgia Bank Foundation donated more than \$1 million to local charities and constructed  
64 the Northwest Georgia Bank Amphitheater; and

65 WHEREAS, he served as treasurer for Governor Nathan Deal's gubernatorial campaign and  
66 served on his transition team; and

67 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished  
68 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in his memory.

69 **PART IV**

70 WHEREAS, Mr. Walter Frazier, Jr., was also known by teammates, coaches, opponents, and  
71 fans by the nickname "Clyde" which was derived from the famed robber Clyde Barrow of  
72 Bonnie and Clyde due to his precision in stealing the basketball from opponents; and

73 WHEREAS, the eldest of nine children, Mr. Frazier graduated from Howard High School  
74 in Atlanta, where he excelled as a quarterback of the football team and a catcher on the  
75 baseball team; and

76 WHEREAS, he accepted a basketball scholarship to Southern Illinois University and earned  
77 All American honors as a senior; and

78 WHEREAS, he was a first round draft pick for the New York Knicks in the 1987 NBA draft,  
79 and during his rookie year, Mr. Frazier and his teammate, Phil Jackson, were named to the  
80 NBA All-Rookie Team; and

81 WHEREAS, known for his amazing peripheral vision and quick hands, Mr. Frazier's skill  
82 and leadership helped the New York Knicks earn NBA Championship titles in 1970 and  
83 1973; and

84 WHEREAS, considered one of the best players in the history of the NBA, Mr. Frazier was  
85 named to the All-NBA First Team four times, the All-NBA Second Team two times, and the  
86 All Defensive First Team seven times; and

87 WHEREAS, this seven-time NBA All-Star was named All-Star Most Valuable Player in  
88 1975 and elected into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1987; and

89 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary life of this  
90 distinguished Georgian be recognized by dedicating a road in his honor.

91 **PART V**

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

95 WHEREAS, Private Lonnie S. Rhinehart demonstrated a deep personal commitment to  
96 protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice his own personal safety and comfort to  
97 ensure the well-being of his fellow man; and

98 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
99 States Army, valiantly and courageously defending his fellow citizens during World War II  
100 in Germany; and

101 WHEREAS, Private Rhinehart was in battle for 19 days and was 19 years old when he was  
102 killed on January 20, 1945; and

103 WHEREAS, Private Rhinehart embodied the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in  
104 something greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable

105 and distinguished American be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in his  
106 memory.

107 **PART VI**

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

111 WHEREAS, U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith demonstrated a deep personal  
112 commitment to protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice his own personal safety  
113 and comfort to ensure the well-being of his fellow man; and

114 WHEREAS, he was injured in a terrorist attack on the Navy Operational Support Center in  
115 Chattanooga on July 16, 2015, and died from his injuries; and

116 WHEREAS, Petty Officer Smith was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart by the Navy  
117 for his selfless display of bravery and sacrifice; and

118 WHEREAS, Petty Officer Smith embodied the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in  
119 something greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable  
120 and distinguished American be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in his  
121 memory.

122 **PART VII**

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

126 WHEREAS, Private First Class Charles W. Bradshaw demonstrated a deep personal  
127 commitment to protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice his own personal safety  
128 and comfort to ensure the well-being of his fellow man; and

129 WHEREAS, he was wounded in action while serving in the Korean War on March 20, 1953,  
130 and died from his injuries; and

131 WHEREAS, Private First Class Bradshaw was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart by  
132 the United States Marine Corps for his selfless display of bravery and sacrifice; and

133 WHEREAS, Private First Class Bradshaw embodied the spirit of service, willing to find  
134 meaning in something greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this  
135 remarkable and distinguished American be recognized appropriately by dedicating an  
136 intersection in his memory.

137 **PART VIII**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

174 **PART IX**

175 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
176 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on Highway 129 over Ivy Log Creek in  
177 Blairsville is dedicated as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge.

178 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that Highway 114 from Lyerly, Georgia,  
179 to the Alabama state line is dedicated as the Generals Gayler & Johnson Highway.

180 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of U.S. Highway 41  
181 and Georgia Highway 151 in Catoosa County is dedicated as the L. Wesley Smith Memorial  
182 Intersection.

183 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that US 278/Ponce de Leon Avenue from  
184 the intersection with Piedmont Avenue to the intersection with State Route 10/Freedom  
185 Parkway in Fulton County is dedicated as the Walt Frazier Highway.

186 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Battlefield  
187 Parkway and Highway 41 in Catoosa County is dedicated as the Private Lonnie S. Rhinehart  
188 Memorial Intersection.

189 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Battlefield  
190 Parkway and Lakeshore Drive in Catoosa County is dedicated as the U.S. Navy Petty Officer  
191 Randall Smith Memorial Intersection.

192 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Cove Road and  
193 Camp Road in Walker County is dedicated as the PFC Charles W. Bradshaw Memorial  
194 Intersection.

195 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 8/State  
196 Route 10 over Lullwater Creek in Fulton County is dedicated as the Michael Polak Bridge.

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

200 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
201 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Department of  
202 Transportation; to the family of Mr. L. Wesley Smith, Private Lonnie S. Rhinehart, U.S.  
203 Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith, and Private First Class Charles W. Bradshaw;  
204 and to Major General William "Bill" K. Gayler, Brigadier General John "Pete" P. Johnson,  
205 Mr. Walter Frazier, Jr., and Mr. Michael Polak.