

## House Resolution 387

By: Representatives Williams of the 119<sup>th</sup>, Quick of the 117<sup>th</sup>, and Frye of the 118<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of First Sergeant Luke J. Mercardante and dedicating a bridge in his  
2 memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Luke J. Mercardante was born on May 10, 1972, in San Diego,  
4 California, and moved to Athens, Georgia, at the age of four; and

5 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Mercardante served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and  
6 liberty with the United States Marine Corps and his life was tragically cut short on April 15,  
7 2008, when he was killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb near the Pakistani border; and

8 WHEREAS, as a small child, First Sergeant Mercardante received an injury to his right hand  
9 that resulted in some limited range of usage but that never prevented him from working hard  
10 to achieve his dream of serving his country in the military; and

11 WHEREAS, after spending two years at the University of Georgia, First Sergeant  
12 Mercardante enlisted on April 22, 1992, and despite being initially rejected as a recruit for  
13 the Marine Corps due to his hand limitations, he requested to be reconsidered and went on  
14 to graduate boot camp as the Honor Graduate; and

15 WHEREAS, he went on to serve deployments in Okinawa, Hawaii, Tokyo, Spain, and  
16 throughout the continental United States; and

17 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Mercardante will long be remembered for his love of family and  
18 friendship, and this loyal father, son, and friend will be missed by all who had the great  
19 fortune of knowing him; and

20 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished  
21 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a bridge in his honor.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
23 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on Highway 441 at the Oconee/Clarke County  
24 line near White Oak Intersection is dedicated as the First Sergeant Luke J. Mercardante  
25 Memorial Bridge.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
27 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the First Sergeant Luke J.  
28 Mercardante Memorial Bridge.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
31 family of First Sergeant Luke J. Mercardante and to the Department of Transportation.