

House Resolution 25 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES)

By: Representatives Spencer of the 180th, Jones of the 167th, and Corbett of the 174th

A RESOLUTION

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

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, Senior Airman Tre Francesco Porfirio was born on October 8, 1988, in
4 Knoxville, Tennessee, and graduated from Camden County High School in 2007; and

5 WHEREAS, Senior Airman Porfirio served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty
6 with the United States Air Force and was halfway through his first six-month deployment in
7 Afghanistan when he was shot three times in the back while his unit was installing
8 communication lines; and

9 WHEREAS, the bullets shattered his stomach and he underwent several surgeries before the
10 doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center determined that removal of his pancreas was
11 necessary; and

12 WHEREAS, in a groundbreaking procedure, Senior Airman Porfirio's doctors removed his
13 bullet-ridden pancreas and flew the organ to the University of Miami where doctors
14 harvested islet cells which were then flown back to Walter Reed and transferred into his
15 liver; and

16 WHEREAS, this procedure, considered by many to be a medical miracle, allowed his liver
17 to produce insulin needed to prevent Senior Airman Porfirio from developing a severe case
18 of diabetes; and

19 WHEREAS, exactly one year to the day after sustaining his life-threatening injuries in
20 Afghanistan, Senior Airman Porfirio passed away in Missouri while visiting friends; and

21 WHEREAS, he left behind many who cherish his life and memory, including his son,
22 Landon; father, Karl; and brothers, Damian, Paul, Adam, and T.J.; 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 memory.

26 **PART II**

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Emmett R. "Whitey" Lollis has long been recognized for the vital role he
28 played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of
29 Georgia; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1944 and before the completion of ninth grade, Mr. Lollis dropped out of
31 school to join the United States Marine Corps; and

32 WHEREAS, after his discharge from military service in 1947, Mr. Lollis joined the state
33 highway department as a rodman on a staking/survey party, where he worked for two years
34 before being called back into the service at the start of the Korean Conflict; and

35 WHEREAS, Mr. Lollis returned to the state highway department 14 months later upon his
36 discharge as a Staff Sergeant and attended night school in order to earn his high school
37 diploma; and

38 WHEREAS, he later earned his civil engineering degree, and upon graduation from the
39 Southern Technical Institute, he returned once again to the state highway department to serve
40 as an engineer on road and bridge projects; and

41 WHEREAS, during his career with the department, Mr. Lollis was responsible for bridge
42 inspection throughout the Thomaston district, ensuring safety for the traveling public; and

43 WHEREAS, upon his retirement from the department, Mr. Lollis established Lollis-Priest
44 and Associates which performed land surveying, site design planning, and engineering
45 consultation services; and

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

48 **PART III**

49 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
50 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Officer Henry Tillman Davis; and

51 WHEREAS, a native of Lumpkin County, Georgia, Officer Davis graduated from Lumpkin
52 County High School and served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the
53 United States Army as a military policeman from August 31, 1963, to June 28, 1966; and

54 WHEREAS, Officer Davis began his career with the Gainesville Police Department on June
55 28, 1969; and

56 WHEREAS, his life was tragically cut short in September of 1972 after his patrol vehicle
57 was struck from behind and forced into oncoming traffic while traveling on Dawsonville
58 Highway in Gainesville; and

59 WHEREAS, he exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine
60 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties; and

61 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
62 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in his honor.

63 **PART IV**

64 WHEREAS, Mr. Henry Grady Layson, Sr., was born on December 1, 1891, in Jasper
65 County, Georgia; and

66 WHEREAS, an adept farmer, Mr. Layson operated a cotton gin and several saw mills
67 throughout Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida; and

68 WHEREAS, because Mr. Layson did not obtain a formal education of his own, he was driven
69 to help others in his community uplift their lives through scholarship; and

70 WHEREAS, he built a schoolhouse in Putnam County named Henderson Grove and hired
71 the school's first teacher; and

72 WHEREAS, Mr. Layson also established a school which allowed teachers to live on site and
73 hired the first agriculture teacher for Jasper County; and

74 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
75 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

76 **PART V**

77 WHEREAS, Mr. Otis Ray Redding, Jr., was a singer, song writer, record producer, arranger,
78 and talent scout who has been called one of the 'Kings of Soul' for his amazing talent as a
79 soul music and rhythm and blues artist; and

80 WHEREAS, he was born in Dawson, Georgia, on September 9, 1941, the beloved son of
81 Fannie Mae Redding and Otis Redding, Sr.; and

82 WHEREAS, at the age of 15, Mr. Redding quit school to help financially support his family
83 after his father contracted tuberculosis, working as a well digger, gas station attendant, and
84 musician; and

85 WHEREAS, he performed in talent shows for prize money and with Little Richard's backing
86 band, the Upsetters; and

87 WHEREAS, Mr. Redding's first single, *Arms of Mine*, hit the musical charts in 1962 and he
88 was famous for such other hits as *Respect* and *Try a Little Tenderness*; and

89 WHEREAS, after his untimely and tragic passing in an airplane crash, Mr. Redding's iconic
90 (*Sittin' on*) *The Dock of the Bay* became the first posthumous number one record on both the
91 *Billboard* Hot 100 and R & B charts; and

92 WHEREAS, he was recognized with numerous posthumous honors and accolades, including
93 a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame,
94 the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and

95 WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Post Office recognized Mr. Redding's enduring
96 musical influence and talent by issuing a commemorative stamp in his honor; and

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

99 **PART VI**

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

103 WHEREAS, United States military veterans have demonstrated a deep personal commitment
104 to protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice their own personal safety and comfort
105 to ensure the well-being of their fellow man; and

106 WHEREAS, they have served as guardians of this nation's freedom and liberty and have
107 diligently and conscientiously undergone intensive and rigorous training in order to serve
108 their country with honor and distinction during times of war and peace; and

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

112 WHEREAS, veterans embody the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in something
113 greater than themselves, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding
114 accomplishments and sacrifices of these remarkable and distinguished Americans be honored
115 appropriately.

116 **PART VII**

117 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
118 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Corporal Richard "Ricky" Allen Hall on
119 September 16, 2015; and

120 WHEREAS, Corporal Hall served as a member of the Chatham County Sheriff's Department
121 and his life was tragically cut short after an automobile accident in Bryan County; and

122 WHEREAS, a native of Savannah, Corporal Hall graduated from Tompkins High School,
123 attended South University, and served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with
124 the United States Marine Corps; and

125 WHEREAS, Corporal Hall dedicated 14 years to protecting and serving the people of
126 Chatham County with the Sheriff's Department; and

127 WHEREAS, he exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine
128 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties; and

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

131 **PART VIII**

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

134 WHEREAS, First Sergeant Mercardante served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and
135 liberty with the United States Marine Corps and his life was tragically cut short on April 15,
136 2008, when he was killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb near the Pakistani border; and

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

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

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

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

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

151 **PART IX**

152 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
153 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Deputy Kyle W. Dinkheller on
154 January 12, 1998; and

155 WHEREAS, Deputy Dinkheller served as a member of the Laurens County Sheriff's Office
156 and his life was tragically cut short after he was murdered during a traffic stop; and

157 WHEREAS, he exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine
158 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties; and

159 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
160 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an interchange in his honor.

161 **PART X**

162 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
163 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the intersection of Interstate 95 and Laurel Island Parkway
164 in Camden County is dedicated as the Senior Airman Tre Francesco Porfirio Memorial
165 Intersection.

166 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on SR 11/US 129 over
167 Bluff Creek in Pulaski County is dedicated as the Emmett R. "Whitey" Lollis Memorial
168 Bridge.

169 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Beechwood Blvd.,
170 NW and SR 53/Dawsonville Highway in Hall County is dedicated as the Officer Henry
171 Tillman Davis Memorial Intersection.

172 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 212 from
173 Bragg Road to the Putnam County line in Jasper County is dedicated as the Henry Grady
174 Layson, Sr., Memorial Highway.

175 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge structures on the Gray
176 Bypass over SR 11 in Jones County is dedicated as the Otis Redding Memorial Bridge.

177 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the relocated portions of State Routes
178 11/22/US 129 in Jones County are dedicated as the Veterans Memorial Parkway.

179 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the I-16 overpass bridge on SR 30/US
180 80/280 in Bryan County is dedicated as the Corporal Rick Hall Memorial Bridge.

181 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Highway 441 at the
182 Oconee/Clarke County line near White Oak Intersection is dedicated as the First Sergeant
183 Luke J. Mercardante Memorial Bridge.

184 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the interchange at I-16 and Exit 42
185 (SR 338) in Laurens County is dedicated as the Deputy Kyle W. Dinkheller, LCSO 37,
186 Memorial Interchange.

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

190 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
191 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
192 Department of Transportation and to the family of Senior Airman Tre Francesco Porfirio;
193 Mr. Emmett R. "Whitey" Lollis; Officer Henry Tillman Davis; Henry Grady Layson, Sr.; Mr.
194 Otis Ray Redding, Jr.; Corporal Richard "Ricky" Allen Hall; First Sergeant Luke J.
195 Mercardante; and Deputy Kyle W. Dinkheller.