

Senate Resolution 866

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Gooch of the 51st, Martin of the 9th, Jones of the 25th and Cowsert of the 46th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mr. John D. Stephens and dedicating a road in his honor; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. John D. Stephens may be best known for his long and accomplished career
4 in construction, real estate, banking, and waste management, but he has also made his
5 mark on the civic community of the Atlanta region; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2000, a lifetime in the contracting business led Mr. Stephens to take on what
7 may be his legacy project - the construction of the fifth runway of the world's busiest airport
8 at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport; and

9 WHEREAS, needing 17 million cubic yards of fill to build up the runway, he and his three
10 sons, Mike, Mark, and Mitch, formed Stephens MDS LP and acquired 485 acres of property
11 adjacent to the airport; and

12 WHEREAS, to complete this mammoth project, the company built a four-mile overland
13 conveyor system that crossed streams and interstate highways and, over a two-year period,
14 moved enough dirt and rock to fill the Georgia Dome six times; and

15 WHEREAS, the conveyor system was reliable and cost efficient and hailed for limiting the
16 project's impact on the environment; and

17 WHEREAS, as that project neared completion, Mr. Stephens recognized that the residential
18 and commercial development trends in the region would produce a demand for a sustainable
19 waste management facility, so he opened a construction and demolition disposal facility on
20 the very land from which he borrowed fill for the runway project; and

21 WHEREAS, by 2005, Mr. Stephens had organized Stephens Rock and Dirt, Inc., an on-site
22 recycling operation that accepts soil, concrete, and other inert materials which are processed
23 and resold as raw materials, thereby preserving precious landfill space; and

24 WHEREAS, Stephens MDS continues to provide dirt and aggregate rock fill to the City of
25 Atlanta for ongoing construction at the world's busiest airport, Hartsfield-Jackson
26 International Airport; and

27 WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance have been instrumental to numerous organizations,
28 including on the Board of Trustees of Georgia Gwinnett College, the Board of Directors of
29 the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Utility Contractors Association,
30 and the Georgia Board of Industry, Trade, and Tourism; and

31 WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including the
32 Citizen of the Year Award in 2006, the Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Environmental Legacy
33 Award in 2007, and the naming of the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce's Education
34 Center in his honor; and

35 WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens and his wife, Beverly, reside in Snellville, Georgia, where they
36 enjoy their five children and nine grandchildren and are active supporters of many charitable
37 causes, including the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of
38 America, Hi-Hope Service Center in Lawrenceville, and Gwinnett Children's Shelter; and

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

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
42 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of GA 123 from State Route 10/US 78 to GA
43 316 in Gwinnett County is dedicated as the John D. Stephens Highway.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
45 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the John D. Stephens Highway.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
47 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
48 Mr. John D. Stephens and to the Department of Transportation.