

House Resolution 229

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Cannon of the 58th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, and Dreyer of the 59th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of the Honorable Grace Wilkerson Davis and dedicating a bridge in her
2 memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia continues to mourn the loss of one of its most distinguished
4 citizens with the passing of the Honorable Grace Wilkerson Davis on May 3, 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Davis was united in love and marriage to Curtis Davis and was
6 blessed with a remarkable son, Curtis Davis, Jr., two wonderful grandchildren, and two
7 adored great-grandchildren; and

8 WHEREAS, while in New York, Representative Davis got her first taste of politics while
9 working for the election of John Lindsay as the city's mayor in 1965; and

10 WHEREAS, she moved back to Georgia in the late 1960s and began working at WAOK
11 radio station as a controller and accountant, and she became involved with the Civil Rights
12 Movement after the leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Representative
13 Tyrone Brooks, along with other members showed up at the station to show support for the
14 African American staff; and

15 WHEREAS, she accompanied Representative Brooks and others in a motorcade to Plains to
16 protest President Jimmy Carter's firing of the United Nations Ambassador, Andrew Young;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Honorable Grace Davis was an outspoken advocate in the Georgia House
19 of Representatives from 1987 to 1998; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Davis was credited with successfully shepherding a bill to
21 passage that slapped stiffer controls on mortgage refinance practices, which prevented
22 hundreds of low-income homeowners from losing their homes; and

23 WHEREAS, she also won passage of her bill to create a Georgia commission on the status
24 of women, which mandated the study of state laws and policies to recommend more educated
25 approaches for dealing with women's issues; and

26 WHEREAS, Representative Davis was appointed project director of the Aging Services
27 Division in Georgia's Department of Human Services, a position she held for four years; and

28 WHEREAS, she gave inspiration to many through her high ideals, morals, and deep concern
29 for her fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding she demonstrated to
30 her family and friends were admired by others; and

31 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Representative Davis will long be
32 remembered for her love of family and friendship, and this loyal daughter, wife, mother,
33 grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune
34 of knowing her; and

35 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and
36 contributions of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
37 dedicating a bridge in her honor.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
39 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on Interstate 85 over Metropolitan Parkway in
40 Fulton County is dedicated as the Grace W. Davis Memorial Bridge.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
42 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Grace W. Davis Memorial
43 Bridge.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
46 family of the Honorable Grace Wilkerson Davis and to the Department of Transportation.