

## House Resolution 1163

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Scoggins of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Georgia Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham and dedicating a bridge in his  
2 honor; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Justice Robert Benham has long been recognized by the citizens of this state  
4 for the vital role that he has played in the justice system; and

5 WHEREAS, Justice Benham earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Tuskegee  
6 University in 1967, his Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1970, and his  
7 Master of Law from the University of Virginia in 1989; and

8 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
9 States Army Reserve, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans and  
10 attaining the rank of captain; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1989, Justice Benham made history as the first African American appointed  
12 to the Georgia Supreme Court in its more than 140 years of existence and, upon his  
13 retirement, holds the honorable distinction of being the longest serving member of the court;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, he served as chief justice from 1995 to 2001, and during his career on the  
16 bench, he earned a reputation as a clear thinker and hard worker, as a man whose strong  
17 convictions were supported by meticulous research and careful consideration, and as an  
18 equitable, impartial leader whose decisions were governed by the rules of honesty and fair  
19 play; and

20 WHEREAS, Justice Benham's leadership and wisdom have been instrumental to numerous  
21 organizations, as he was president of the Bartow County Bar Association, a chairperson of  
22 the Governor's Commission on Drug Awareness and Prevention, and he is currently a

23 member of the American Judicature Society, the National Criminal Justice Association, and  
24 the Georgia Bar Foundation; and

25 WHEREAS, Justice Benham's service on the Georgia Supreme Court is marked by his vision  
26 and unyielding commitment to justice, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this  
27 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a bridge  
28 in his honor.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
30 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on State Route 113 over I-75 in Bartow County  
31 is dedicated as the Justice Robert Benham Bridge.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
33 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Justice Robert Benham  
34 Bridge.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
36 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Justice  
37 Robert Benham and to the Department of Transportation.