

House Resolution 1388

By: Representatives Smyre of the 135th, Hugley of the 136th, Smith of the 133rd, Smith of the 134th, and Buckner of the 137th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Judge Albert W. Thompson, Sr., and dedicating a bridge in his memory;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Judge Albert W. Thompson, Sr., has long been recognized by the citizens of
4 this state for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment
5 to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Thompson earned his bachelor's degree from Savannah State College and
7 his Juris Doctorate from Howard University; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1951, Judge Thompson made history as the first African American admitted
9 to the bar in Columbus, Georgia, and in 1965 he became the first African American elected
10 to public office in Muscogee County and one of the first to desegregate the Georgia House
11 of Representatives; and

12 WHEREAS, this seven-term member of the House of Representatives also chaired the House
13 Committee on Special Judiciary, making him the first African American chairperson for the
14 Georgia General Assembly; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1980, he was appointed a superior court judge, and in 1991 he retired from
16 the bench as an administrative law judge with the State Board of Workers' Compensation;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, during his career on the bench, he earned a reputation as a clear thinker and
19 hard worker, as a man whose strong convictions were supported by meticulous research and
20 careful consideration, and as an equitable, impartial leader whose decisions were governed
21 by the rules of honesty and fair play; and

22 WHEREAS, Judge Thompson's leadership and wisdom were instrumental to numerous
23 service organizations and the Civil Rights Movement; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
25 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a bridge in his memory.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on State Route 85 over Railroad Ave/Railroad
28 Street in Muscogee County is dedicated as the Albert W. Thompson Memorial Bridge.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
30 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Albert W. Thompson
31 Memorial Bridge.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
34 family of Judge Albert W. Thompson and to the Department of Transportation.