

The Senate Committee on Transportation offered the following substitute to SR 844:

A RESOLUTION

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

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PART I

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
4 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Deputy Nicolas Blane Dixon on July 8, 2019;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, a native of Gainesville, Georgia, Deputy Dixon graduated from North Hall High
7 School and followed his lifelong dream to serve others as a law enforcement officer; and

8 WHEREAS, he served the Hall County Sheriff's Office Uniformed Patrol Division for three
9 years, where he had a well-earned reputation as a person of unquestioned integrity and
10 dedication to the sound principles of law enforcement; and

11 WHEREAS, his life was tragically cut short in the line of duty after he made a vehicle stop
12 of a burglary suspect and was shot during a gun fight after the suspect fled on foot; and

13 WHEREAS, Deputy Dixon exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty,
14 fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties; and

15 WHEREAS, known as having a giant heart and generous spirit, Deputy Dixon was
16 passionate about his service as a police officer and was the embodiment of courage and
17 strength; and

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

20

PART II

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Richard L. Jackson has long been recognized by the citizens of this state
22 for his contributions to the healthcare industry as well as advocacy for the foster care system
23 of Georgia; and

24 WHEREAS, a graduate of Greater Atlanta Christian School, Mr. Jackson has devoted his life
25 to the betterment of his community by enriching the lives of others through numerous
26 humanitarian projects; and

27 WHEREAS, he has served as the chairman and chief executive officer of Jackson
28 Healthcare, an organization dedicated to providing highly specialized healthcare staffing and
29 technology; and

30 WHEREAS, his dedication to improving the healthcare community is demonstrated by his
31 leadership in one of the largest healthcare staffing companies in the United States, which
32 serves over 1,000 healthcare facilities; and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson has played a vital role in the healthcare industry for over 40 years
34 by conceptualizing various healthcare companies and developing hospitals, surgery centers,
35 and other healthcare environments; and

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson's keen ability to strategize and advance healthcare systems has
37 transformed the healthcare industry as whole; and

38 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson has also served on the board of the Georgia Department of
39 Community Health and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce for a number of years; and

40 WHEREAS, in addition to founding Patients for Fair Compensation, a 501(c)(3) organization
41 devoted to medical malpractice reform, Mr. Jackson is also co-founder and chairman of
42 FaithBridge Foster Care, a ministry that serves to support children within the foster care
43 system and their families; and

44 WHEREAS, driven by his personal experiences as a former child within the Georgia foster
45 care system, Mr. Jackson has dedicated his life to transforming the lives of children by
46 finding them loving homes; and

47 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson has provided hope and opportunity to a countless number of
48 underprivileged children through his endeavor to find a solution to the foster care system;
49 and

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

52

PART III

53 WHEREAS, Dr. Tom Price has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital
54 role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the
55 citizens of Georgia; and

56 WHEREAS, Dr. Price completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at Emory University
57 in Atlanta, Georgia, and settled in the suburb of Roswell, Georgia; and

58 WHEREAS, as a physician, he was one of the founders of Resurgens Orthopaedics and
59 served as president of the Roswell Rotary; and

60 WHEREAS, he served with honor and distinction as a member of the Georgia State Senate
61 from 1996 to 2005, where he was the first Republican after Reconstruction to hold the
62 position of majority party leader in the Senate; and

63 WHEREAS, his significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience
64 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this
65 state earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates as a member of
66 the United States House of Representatives from 2005 to 2017; and

67 WHEREAS, in 2017, Dr. Price was appointed as the United States Secretary of Health and
68 Human Services; and

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

71

PART IV

72 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens with the passing of Dr. Calvin
73 McLarin on August 29, 2019; and

74 WHEREAS, Dr. Calvin McLarin was born in Atlanta, Georgia, the youngest of five children
75 of George and Myrtis Young McLarin; and

76 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
77 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
78 family and friends were admired by others; and

79 WHEREAS, Dr. McLarin was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable
80 reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of
81 his life, he made this world a better place in which to live; and

82 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. McLarin will long be remembered for
83 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal brother and friend will be missed by all who
84 had the great fortune of knowing him; and

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

87

PART V

88 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph "Sonny" Alexander Vickers was born in Valdosta, Georgia, to Jessie
89 Lee and Mattie Vickers; and

90 WHEREAS, as a young man, Mr. Vickers petitioned city leaders over his concern about long
91 wait times at the train crossing on West Hill Avenue in Valdosta that prevented citizens and
92 first responders from traveling between the west side of town and the downtown area; and

93 WHEREAS, Mr. Vickers' passion for advocacy and helping his neighbors continued with a
94 lifelong career in public service as a city councilman for Valdosta's District 3; and

95 WHEREAS, during his 32 year career as a councilmember, Mr. Vickers has been highly
96 regarded by the citizens of his community and by state and local government officials as a
97 person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to his community; and

98 WHEREAS, Valdosta citizens have experienced significant quality of life improvements
99 thanks to Mr. Vickers' leadership which includes initiatives for the installation of streetlights
100 and the establishment of a housing program; and

101 WHEREAS, he helped organize the Black Community Action Group, founded the Valdosta
102 Youth Voters League, served as chairperson for the Valdosta Housing Task Force, organized
103 the 3rd District Community Association, and served as vice president of the
104 Valdosta-Lowndes Chapter of Habitat for Humanity; and

105 WHEREAS, Mr. Vickers has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades,
106 including the Humanitarian Award from the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi
107 Fraternity, Appreciation Award and Macedonia Image Award from Macedonia First Baptist
108 Church, Humanitarian Award from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Dr. Martin Luther King,
109 Jr., Commemoration Association, and Award for Exemplary Community Service from the
110 100 Black Men of Valdosta; and

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

113

PART VI

114 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
115 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on State Route 11/Cleveland Highway in Hall
116 County is dedicated as the Deputy Nicolas Blane Dixon Memorial Bridge.

117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the interchange between Old Milton
118 Parkway/SR 120 and SR 400 in Fulton County is dedicated as the Richard L. Jackson
119 Interchange.

120 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of State Route 92 and
121 State Route 9/State Route 120 in Fulton County is dedicated as the Tom Price Intersection.

122 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on 17th Street over I-75
123 in Fulton County is dedicated as the Calvin McLarin Memorial Bridge.

124 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the overpass bridge on State
125 Route 38/U.S. 221 in Lowndes County is dedicated as the Joseph "Sonny" Vickers Overpass.

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

129 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
130 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Department of
131 Transportation; to Mr. Richard L. Jackson, Dr. Tom Price, and Mr. Joseph "Sonny"
132 Alexander Vickers; and to the families of Deputy Nicolas Blane Dixon and Dr. Calvin
133 McLarin.