

House Resolution 256 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Pirkle of the 169th and Houston of the 170th

A RESOLUTION

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

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Sophia Ruth Fisher was born on May 11, 2000, in Tifton, Georgia, the
4 fourth child following three brothers; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Fisher was a member of the Tift County Show Choir, served as dance
6 captain for Ladies' Choice Show Choir, and was a member of the Tift County Swim Team,
7 where she was known for her competitive spirit and as an encouraging teammate; and

8 WHEREAS, a young woman of deep and abiding faith, Ms. Fisher was an active member
9 of Northside Baptist Church, serving in her youth group, on mission trips, and volunteering
10 in various areas of ministry; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Fisher's life was tragically cut short on June 30, 2018, when she and her
12 mother were struck by a vehicle while cycling on Willis Still Road; and

13 WHEREAS, her sassy, red-headed personality brought life and laughter to those around her,
14 and her "Be Happy" mantra was evident in all her endeavors; and

15 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
16 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an interchange in her memory.

17 **PART II**

18 WHEREAS, Mr. John E. Brown has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the
19 vital role that he played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the
20 citizens of Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, a son of Walter and Margaret Brown, Mr. Brown emigrated to the United States
22 from Ireland with his family to Chester County, South Carolina, when he was three years old;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, in 1780, Mr. Brown joined the South Carolina militia and fought at Rock Mount
25 and the Battle of Hanging Rock; and

26 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Brown became a licensed Presbyterian
27 minister in 1788; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Brown diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his
29 time, talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced
30 dramatically by his superlative service as the third president of the University of Georgia
31 from 1811 to 1816; and

32 WHEREAS, upon his retirement from the University of Georgia, Mr. Brown went on to
33 serve as pastor of Mt. Zion Church in Hancock County and later served as pastor of the
34 Presbyterian Church in Washington, Georgia, serving there until his move to Fort Gaines in
35 Clay County; and

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

38 **PART III**

39 WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put
40 their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the
41 freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

42 WHEREAS, Sergeant Eddie Thomas Terry was born on July 2, 1947, in Manchester,
43 Georgia, the beloved son of Emmitt "Embo" and Mary B. Terry; and

44 WHEREAS, a 1946 graduate of Meriwether County Training School, Sergeant Terry served
45 as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army, serving in the
46 Vietnam War; and

47 WHEREAS, while a part of Company D 2nd Battalion 12 Calvary in Vietnam, Sergeant
48 Terry perished when he dove into the waters of the San Rao Trach River in a heroic attempt
49 to rescue one of his squad; and

50 WHEREAS, Sergeant Terry demonstrated selfless service to this nation and his unyielding
51 commitment to protecting the people and ideals of the United States in giving the ultimate
52 sacrifice will be remembered always; and

53 WHEREAS, he embodied the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in something greater
54 than himself and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
55 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a bridge in his memory.

56

PART IV

57 WHEREAS, Dr. Barbara Pulliam has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
58 the vital role that she has played in leadership and her deep personal commitment to the
59 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

60 WHEREAS, she has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of her time,
61 talents, and energy toward the betterment of her community and state as evidenced
62 dramatically by her superlative service with the Clayton County School District as
63 superintendent since 2004; and

64 WHEREAS, Dr. Pulliam was the first female and first African American female to lead the
65 Clayton County Public School District; and

66 WHEREAS, Dr. Pulliam's significant organizational and leadership talents, her remarkable
67 patience and diplomacy, her keen sense of vision, and her sensitivity to the needs of the
68 citizens of this state have earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and
69 associates; and

70 WHEREAS, in 2007, Dr. Pulliam was named Superintendent of the Year by the State of
71 Georgia PTA; and

72 WHEREAS, she has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including the
73 Award for Positive Social Change in Education from the Fayette County NAACP, the 2007
74 National Council of Negro Women's Highest Honor Award, the Grass Roots Award from the
75 Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and National Superintendent of the Year in 2010
76 from the National Association of Black School Educators; and

77 WHEREAS, in 2005, she won the Pinnacle Award from Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc.,
78 an organization for which she is a Golden Life Member; and

79 WHEREAS, Dr. Pulliam's leadership has overseen the construction of four elementary, three
80 middle, and two high schools that allowed students who were learning in trailers to move into
81 school buildings with modern classrooms and the latest technology; and

82 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
83 Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating a road in her honor.

84 **PART V**

85 WHEREAS, Chief Jeffrey E. Turner is highly regarded by the citizens of his community and
86 state and by local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication
87 to the sound principles of law enforcement; and

88 WHEREAS, Chief Turner moved to Clayton County with his family in 1978 and graduated
89 from Morrow High School; and

90 WHEREAS, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of West Georgia and a
91 master's degree from Columbus State University; and

92 WHEREAS, after dedicating 20 years of service to the Clayton County Police Department,
93 Chief Turner was appointed as the first African American Chief of Police for the department
94 in 2007; and

95 WHEREAS, in 2009, Chief Turner was assigned to the Clayton County Regional Police
96 Academy as the Director and the first African American to lead the academy; and

97 WHEREAS, Chief Turner exhibits extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine
98 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties; and

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

101 **PART VI**

102 WHEREAS, Mayor William "Pete" Bridges was born on August 4, 1941, in Tallapoosa,
103 Georgia, the beloved son of Martha Mae Odom Bridges and Robert Franklin Bridges; and

104 WHEREAS, Mayor Bridges served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with
105 the United States Army where he competed as a member of the U.S. Army Pistol Team,
106 placing second overall in rapid fire; and

107 WHEREAS, he began his career in sales at Cannon Electric before moving to Boston
108 Insulated Wire & Cable Company, where he was recognized with a Top Salesman Award
109 and earned a fine reputation for his problem-solving and thoroughness; and

110 WHEREAS, upon his retirement in 1971, Mayor Bridges moved to Tallapoosa and opened
111 the West Georgia Golf Company in 1983; and

112 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
113 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced
114 dramatically by his superlative service for two terms on the Tallapoosa City Council and then
115 as the longest serving mayor of the city; and

116 WHEREAS, Mayor Bridges was a long-time member of the Tallapoosa Lion's Club and
117 served as a representative for Tallapoosa residents with the Georgia Municipal Association
118 as a member of the association's board of directors; and

119 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mayor Bridges was an active member of Our
120 Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Carrollton, Georgia; and

121 WHEREAS, Mayor Bridges embodied the spirit of service and it is abundantly fitting and
122 proper that this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
123 dedicating a road in his memory.

124 **PART VII**

125 WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stands as one of the most prominent
126 Georgians of the twentieth century; and

127 WHEREAS, Reverend King attended public school in Georgia, graduating from high school
128 at the age of 15, and received his bachelor's degree in 1948 from Morehouse College; and

129 WHEREAS, after three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in
130 Pennsylvania, where he was elected president of the senior class, he was awarded a divinity
131 degree in 1951, and, with a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at
132 Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving his
133 doctoral degree in 1955; and

134 WHEREAS, in 1957, Reverend King was elected president of the Southern Christian
135 Leadership Conference, and, in the 11 years between 1957 and 1968, he traveled over six

136 million miles and spoke over 2,500 times in support of civil rights and wrote five books as
137 well as numerous articles; and

138 WHEREAS, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of
139 the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience and inspiring his "Letter
140 from a Birmingham Jail," a manifesto of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States; and

141 WHEREAS, Reverend King also planned and participated in numerous protests and
142 demonstrations for the cause of civil rights including the peaceful march on Washington,
143 D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" address at the
144 Lincoln Memorial; and

145 WHEREAS, he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by *Time*
146 magazine in 1963; and, at the age of 35, was the youngest man to have been awarded the
147 Nobel Peace Prize; and

148 WHEREAS, through his tireless work on behalf of civil rights for all people, he became not
149 only the symbolic leader of African Americans in the United States but also a world figure
150 in the fight for justice for all; and

151 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
152 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his memory.

153 **PART VIII**

154 WHEREAS, Deputy Emory A. Rowland was highly regarded by the citizens of his
155 community and state and by local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity
156 and dedication to the sound principles of law enforcement; and

157 WHEREAS, Deputy Rowland diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of
158 his time, talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced
159 dramatically by his superlative service as a deputy in Johnson County; and

160 WHEREAS, Deputy Rowland led an exceptional career of public of service, always putting
161 public safety and the citizens of Johnson County first, and his inspiring commitment to the
162 welfare of others stands as a shining example of the positive effect law enforcement
163 professionals have on the lives and well-being of others; and

164 WHEREAS, Deputy Rowland exhibited extraordinary devotion to public service,
165 outstanding loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all of his duties and
166 it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be
167 recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his memory.

168 **PART IX**

169 WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put
170 their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the
171 freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

172 WHEREAS, United States military veterans have demonstrated a deep personal commitment
173 to protecting democracy and a willingness to sacrifice their own personal safety and comfort
174 to ensure the well-being of their fellow man; and

175 WHEREAS, they have served as guardians of this nation's freedom and liberty and have
176 diligently and conscientiously undergone intensive and rigorous training in order to serve
177 their country with honor and distinction during times of war and peace; and

178 WHEREAS, it is important that veterans are thanked for their selfless service to this nation
179 and honored for their unyielding commitment to protecting the people and ideals of the
180 United States; and

181 WHEREAS, veterans embody the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in something
182 greater than themselves, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding
183 accomplishments and sacrifices of these remarkable and distinguished Americans be honored
184 appropriately.

185 **PART X**

186 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
187 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the interchange at Willis Still Road and Interstate 75 in Tift
188 County is dedicated as the Sophia Ruth Fisher Interchange.

189 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 39 over
190 Cemochechobee Creek in Clay County is dedicated as the John E. Brown Bridge.

191 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 190 over
192 Lane Street in Meriwether County is dedicated as the Sergeant Eddie Thomas Terry
193 Memorial Bridge.

194 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 138 from
195 Tara Boulevard in Clayton County to Scarlett Drive in Clayton County is dedicated as the
196 Dr. Barbara Pulliam Highway.

197 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 138 from
198 Highway 54 to North McDonough Street in Clayton County is dedicated as the Jeffrey E.
199 Turner Parkway.

200 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Highway 78 from the
201 east boundary of the City of Tallapoosa to the west boundary of the City of Tallapoosa in
202 Haralson County is dedicated as the Mayor William "Pete" Bridges Memorial Highway.

203 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Georgia Business Route
204 10 within the city limits of Washington in Wilkes County is dedicated as the MLK Memorial
205 Drive.

206 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 57 East
207 from Mile Marker 15 to the Johnson/Emanuel County Line in Johnson County, Georgia, is
208 dedicated as the Deputy Emory Rowland Memorial Highway.

209 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that this body hereby joins in honoring
210 military veterans and dedicates the SR 125 Bridge over Vanceville Road near the
211 Berrien/Tift County line in Berrien County as the West Berrien Vietnam War Veterans
212 Memorial Bridge and includes each of the following names: Scott Tucker, Homer Williams,
213 Carroll Purvis, Jerry Castleberry, Darrell Danforth, Charles Nichols, Jimmy Grant, Roger
214 Grant, Roger Walker, Johnny Gaskins, Dalton Purvis, Raliegh Tyson, Dewayne Lovett, Ray
215 Pearson, Fred Ivey, Larry Taylor, James Griffin, Clifton Bryan, Ottis Weeks, Larry Purvis,
216 Howard Womack, and Thomas Lokey.

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

220 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
221 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
222 Department of Transportation; to Dr. Barbara Pulliam and Chief Jeffrey E. Turner; and to the
223 families of Ms. Sophia Ruth Fisher; Mr. John E. Brown; Sergeant Eddie Thomas Terry;
224 Mayor William "Pete" Bridges; Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Deputy Emory A.
225 Rowland; Scott Tucker; Homer Williams; Carroll Purvis; Jerry Castleberry; Darrell
226 Danforth; Charles Nichols; Jimmy Grant; Roger Grant; Roger Walker; Johnny Gaskins;
227 Dalton Purvis; Ralieggh Tyson; Dewayne Lovett; Ray Pearson; Fred Ivey; Larry Taylor;
228 James Griffin; Clifton Bryan; Ottis Weeks; Larry Purvis; Howard Womack; and Thomas
229 Lokey.