

The Senate Committee on Transportation offered the following substitute to SR 596:

A RESOLUTION

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

2

PART I

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens with the passing of Mr. Isaiah
4 Berry on December 9, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Berry attended Savannah State College on a football scholarship, where his
6 studies focused on math and electronics; and

7 WHEREAS, he began his coaching career in 1970 in Eastman and Soperton, Georgia, before
8 becoming a proud Bulldogg at Winder-Barrow High School, where the math teacher coached
9 football and track and field; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Berry was recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including
11 Georgia Athletic Coach of the Year for girls track in 1975 and 1980, Hall of Fame
12 Track/Cross Country Coach of Georgia in 2000, Father of the Year 2001 by Men for a Better
13 Barrow County, the Beacon of Light Award by the Division of Family and Children Services
14 in 2003, the NAACP Appreciation Award in 1995, and Citizen of the Year 2011 and 2021
15 Shining Star Award by the Barrow County Chamber of Commerce; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Berry and his wife, Margie Nobles, opened their home and their hearts to
17 numerous children in the foster care system for over 25 years; and

18 WHEREAS, he was highly regarded by the citizens of his community as a person of
19 unquestioned integrity, and his dedication to inspiring young athletes set the standard for
20 excellence; and

21 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
22 Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating an intersection in his memory.

23

PART II

24 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
25 enforcement officers with the untimely passing of Sergeant Barry Henderson on March 9,
26 2021; and

27 WHEREAS, Sergeant Henderson was highly regarded by the citizens of his community and
28 state and by local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication
29 to the sound principles of law enforcement; and

30 WHEREAS, he served with honor and distinction with the Polk County Sheriff's Office; and

31 WHEREAS, Sergeant Henderson exhibited extraordinary devotion to public service,
32 outstanding loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all of his duties; and

33 WHEREAS, he will long be remembered for his inspiring commitment to the welfare of
34 others, which stands as a shining example of the positive effect law enforcement
35 professionals have on the lives and well-being of others; and

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

38

PART III

39 WHEREAS, Dr. Benny Tate has demonstrated his commitment to teaching the Gospel,
40 witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical, psychological,
41 intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

42 WHEREAS, Dr. Tate was called by the Lord over 30 years ago to lead the congregation of
43 Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, as the church's senior pastor; and

44 WHEREAS, his vision and direction have helped Rock Springs Church grow in size from
45 80 to 8,000 members, uplifting the community like the light of Bethlehem and serving as a
46 spiritual leader and place for fellowship with seven campuses; and

47 WHEREAS, Dr. Tate has established numerous programs and workshops which have
48 improved the spiritual and educational growth of the church and the surrounding community,
49 including Rock Springs Medical Clinic, Rock Springs Christian Academy, the Potters House
50 for Women, and Impact Street Ministry; and

51 WHEREAS, whether the task is preparing a sermon, visiting the sick, counseling the
52 troubled, baptizing a new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or
53 humanitarian, Dr. Tate serves as a shining example of God's righteous path; and

54 WHEREAS, Dr. Tate has authored four books: *One More Night with Frogs; Happy Wife,*
55 *Happy Life; When You Follow a Star and Find a Stable;* and *Bennyisms;* and

56 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
57 of peace and love be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

58

PART IV

59 WHEREAS, Sheriff Ernest "Dobie" Conner is highly regarded by the citizens of his
60 community and state and by local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity
61 and dedication to the sound principles of law enforcement; and

62 WHEREAS, Sheriff Conner began serving Charlton County in 1967 as a deputy sheriff and
63 was first elected sheriff of Charlton County in 1980; and

64 WHEREAS, he served with honor and distinction as Charlton County Sheriff until his
65 retirement in 2021; and

66 WHEREAS, during his tenure as sheriff, he placed a heavy emphasis on drug education,
67 spending a significant amount of time in local schools with students, and piloted the Junior
68 Sheriff's program in Charlton County, a summer camp for students with an interest in law
69 enforcement which provides first-hand experience in the field; and

70 WHEREAS, Sheriff Conner led an exceptional career during his 40 years of service, always
71 putting public safety and the citizens of Charlton County first, and his inspiring commitment
72 to the welfare of others stands as a shining example of the positive effect law enforcement
73 professionals have on the lives and well-being of others; and

74 WHEREAS, Sheriff Conner exhibited extraordinary devotion to public service, outstanding
75 loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all of his duties and it is

76 abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized
77 appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

78 **PART V**

79 WHEREAS, Dr. Samuel D. Thomas I was born in 1882 in Ridgeway, South Carolina, and
80 moved to Carrollton, Georgia, in 1918; and

81 WHEREAS, after graduating from medical school, Dr. Thomas completed his postgraduate
82 work at St. Andrews Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

83 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas was highly regarded by the citizens of his community as a person
84 of unquestioned integrity, and his dedication to the medical profession set the standard for
85 excellence; and

86 WHEREAS, a trailblazer who paved the way for others, Dr. Thomas was the first African
87 American physician at Tanner Memorial Hospital in 1918, where he dedicated his time,
88 talents, and energy until his retirement in 1954; and

89 WHEREAS, in 1962, the Carrollton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners recognized
90 his influence by naming the West Carrollton Housing Development "Thomas Homes"; and

91 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Dr. Thomas was an active member of Mt. Zion
92 Baptist Church, where he served as deacon and treasurer; and

93 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
94 Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating an intersection in his memory.

95

PART VI

96 WHEREAS, Representative Bill Hembree has long been recognized by the citizens of this
97 state for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to
98 the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

99 WHEREAS, born in Villa Rica, Georgia, and a product of the Douglas County Public School
100 System, Representative Hembree earned a bachelor's degree from Johnson and Wales
101 University; and

102 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
103 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state, as evidenced
104 dramatically by his superlative service as a member of the Georgia General Assembly for 14
105 years; and

106 WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2013, Representative Hembree served with honor and distinction
107 with the Georgia House of Representatives, and his vision and unyielding commitment to
108 representing the residents of his district set the standard for public service; and

109 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
110 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating a bridge
111 in his honor.

112

PART VII

113 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and law enforcement officers
114 with the passing of Officer Carol Leigh Ledford; and

115 WHEREAS, Officer Ledford's life was tragically cut short on April 19, 1999, when she was
116 hit head-on by a drunk driver; and

117 WHEREAS, Officer Ledford was highly regarded by the citizens of her community and state
118 and by local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to the
119 sound principles of law enforcement; and

120 WHEREAS, the youngest graduate in her class at Northeast Georgia Police Academy and
121 the first female police officer in White County, Officer Ledford was the embodiment of
122 courage, compassion, and strength; and

123 WHEREAS, Officer Ledford was passionate about ensuring that Georgia's children were
124 upstanding citizens, speaking with students about the importance of following the law and
125 about the role a police officer plays in the community, as well as hosting numerous camps
126 that taught about the negative consequences of drug and alcohol use; and

127 WHEREAS, she was promoted to public relations officer and earned the nickname
128 "Cleveland's Young Gun" for her dedication to serving as a role model to children; and

129 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
130 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in her memory.

131

PART VIII

132 WHEREAS, Representative Carlton H. Colwell has long been recognized by the citizens of
133 this state for the vital role that he played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to
134 the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

135 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
136 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced
137 dramatically by his superlative service as a member of the Georgia General Assembly,
138 representing the citizens of Union County for over 30 years; and

139 WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure with the General Assembly, Representative
140 Colwell championed prison reform and alternatives to incarceration, with his commitment
141 recognized in 1994 with the naming of a probation detention center in his honor by the
142 Georgia Department of Corrections; and

143 WHEREAS, Representative Colwell served with honor and distinction with the Georgia
144 General Assembly, and his vision and unyielding commitment to representing the residents
145 of his district set the standard for public service; and

146 WHEREAS, a graduate of Union County High School, this dedicated public servant was
147 instrumental in numerous projects benefitting Union County visitors and residents; and

148 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
149 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating an
150 intersection in his memory.

151

PART IX

152 WHEREAS, Mr. Mike Berg has long been recognized for the vital role that he plays in
153 leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of this state; and

154 WHEREAS, a graduate of Sylvan Hills High School, Mr. Berg earned a bachelor's degree
155 from Georgia State University; and

156 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
157 States Army and retired from the position of manager from the Georgia Power Company; and

158 WHEREAS, Mr. Berg is the principal for Mike Berg and Associates, Inc., a government and
159 business strategic planning company, and serves as the chief financial officer for Marketing
160 Incentives, which sells promotional marketing incentives; and

161 WHEREAS, he is an active member of Rotary International, including the South Gwinnett
162 Club, Snellville Club, and Gwinnett Sunrise Club, where he has served as president, a major
163 donor, a GSRP Will Watt fellow, benefactor, Paul Harris Society member, RLI graduate, and
164 area four assistant governor; and

165 WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance have been instrumental to numerous organizations,
166 including Lake Lanier Association, Coosa North Georgia State Water Planning Commission,
167 and Drawdown Georgia; and

168 WHEREAS, Mr. Berg has served as president of the Association of County Commissioners
169 of Georgia, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, county
170 commissioner for Gwinnett County District 3, board member for the Institute of Georgia
171 Environmental Leadership, chairman of the Georgia State Public Defender Council, board
172 member for the State Parent Teacher Association, and founder and chairman of Gwinnett
173 United in Drug Education; and

174 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable
175 and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating an intersection in his
176 honor.

177

PART X

178 WHEREAS, Mrs. Edna Jo Mize was born in Rainsville, Alabama, and has long been
179 recognized for her commitment to uplifting the lives of others and her bright smile; and

180 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mize dedicated 27 years to the Eastman Kodak Company in Georgia; and

181 WHEREAS, she is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
182 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example she has made of her life,
183 she has made this world a better place in which to live; and

184 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Mrs. Mize is a faithful member of United
185 Bethel Methodist Church, where she takes pride in meeting and welcoming new members
186 of the church; and

187 WHEREAS, for years she dedicated her time, talents, and energy to working in the church's
188 nursery and teaching young attendants about the Word of God and power of Jesus Christ; and

189 WHEREAS, she has worked as a bailiff at the Dawson County Courthouse for 25 years,
190 demonstrating her commitment to the justice system and law and order; and

191 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
192 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in her honor.

193

PART XI

194 WHEREAS, Forsyth County is home to roughly 8,000 residents who work in the technology
195 field; and

196 WHEREAS, the City of Alpharetta has more than 700 technology companies and helps
197 support Tech Alpharetta, a nonprofit that mentors young tech startups and fosters tech
198 business growth; and

199 WHEREAS, numerous technology companies are located along the Georgia 400 Highway,
200 including Scientific Games, Forte Data Systems, New Cyber Source, and Siemens; and

201 WHEREAS, leaders from the City of Alpharetta and Forsyth County are committed to
202 promoting technology companies and promoting the area as the technology destination of the
203 Southeast; and

204 WHEREAS, dedication of this route as a highway of progress will promote economic
205 development and attract more technology based businesses.

206

PART XII

207 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
208 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the intersection of State Route 81 and Tom Miller Road
209 in Barrow County is dedicated as the Isaiah "Coach" Berry Memorial Intersection.

210 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection at SR 6/US 278 and
211 SR 101/6BU in Polk County is dedicated as the Sergeant Barry Henderson Memorial
212 Intersection.

213 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 36 from the
214 Butts/Lamar County line to Jones Road in Lamar County is dedicated as the Dr. Benny Tate
215 Parkway.

216 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 94 from
217 State Route 121 to the Georgia/Florida state line in Charlton County, Georgia, is dedicated
218 as the Sheriff Ernest "Dobie" Conner Highway.

219 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of U.S. 27 and
220 Alabama Street in Carroll County is dedicated as the Dr. Samuel D. Thomas I Memorial
221 Intersection.

222 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on State Route 166 over
223 Dog River Reservoir in Douglas County is dedicated as the Bill Hembree Bridge.

224 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection at State Route 75
225 Connector/Appalachian Parkway and NOK Drive in White County is dedicated as the Officer
226 Carol Leigh Ledford Memorial Intersection.

227 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of U.S. 19 and
228 Cleveland Street/Glenn Gooch Parkway in Union County is dedicated as the Carlton Colwell
229 Intersection.

230 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of State Route 400
231 and Dawson Forest Road in Dawson County is dedicated as the Mike Berg Intersection.

232 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of State Route 400
233 and Harmony Church Road/Lumpkin Campground Road in Dawson County is dedicated as
234 the Edna Jo Mize Intersection.

235 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 400 from
236 Mansell Road in Fulton County to State Route 20 in Forsyth County is dedicated as The
237 Technology Corridor.

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

241 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
242 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Department of
243 Transportation; to Dr. Benny Tate, Sheriff Ernest "Dobie" Conner, Representative Bill
244 Hembree, Mr. Mike Berg, and Mrs. Edna Jo Mize; and to the families of Sergeant Barry
245 Henderson, Dr. Samuel D. Thomas I, Officer Carol Leigh Ledford, Representative Carlton
246 H. Colwell, and Mr. Isaiah Berry.