

House Resolution 539

By: Representatives Gilliard of the 162nd, Jackson of the 165th, and Stephens of the 164th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mr. Nolan Sental Smith, Jr., and dedicating a bridge in his honor; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Nolan Sental Smith, Jr., was born on January 18, 2001, in Savannah, Georgia,
4 and has shown the world what it means to dream big, work relentlessly, and rise above every
5 challenge in pursuit of greatness; and

6 WHEREAS, from his early days on the football field in youth leagues to his standout
7 performances at IMG Academy and Calvary Day School, Mr. Smith's passion for the game
8 of football and unwavering determination have been evident in every play he has made,
9 earning him admiration and respect from coaches, teammates, and fans alike; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's time at the University of Georgia was nothing short of remarkable,
11 where his relentless work ethic, leadership, and dedication to his football team helped secure
12 two College Football Playoff National Championships, a testament to his commitment to
13 excellence and his pivotal role in the success of the Georgia Bulldogs; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's dream of playing in the NFL became a reality when he was selected
15 by the Philadelphia Eagles in the first round of the 2023 NFL draft, representing not only his
16 talent but the power of perseverance, hard work, and faith in himself; and

17 WHEREAS, beyond the field, Mr. Smith is deeply committed to using his platform and
18 influence to make a meaningful impact in his community and beyond, striving to be more
19 than just a football player, but a role model, leader, and change-maker who inspires others
20 to dream big, work hard, and give back to those who need it most; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has touched countless lives through his dedication to inspiring and
22 mentoring others, particularly through the Nolan Smith Foundation, which uplifts young
23 athletes, providing them with the guidance to overcome obstacles, achieve their goals, and
24 positively impact their communities; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's story is not just one of athletic triumph, but a testament to the
26 power of resilience, humility, and the profound impact one person can have on the lives of
27 those around them, especially through his support of his family and their shared journey
28 together; and

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

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
32 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on Interstate 95/State Route 405 at State Route
33 204/Fort Argyle Road in Chatham County is dedicated as the Nolan S. Smith, Jr. Bridge.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
35 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Nolan S. Smith, Jr. Bridge.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mr.
38 Nolan Sental Smith, Jr., and to the Department of Transportation.