

House Resolution 811

By: Representative Gilliard of the 162nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the life of Reverend Dr. Bennie R. Mitchell, Jr., and dedicating a bridge in his
2 memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Bennie R. Mitchell, Jr., demonstrated his commitment to teaching
4 the Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,
5 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Mitchell was born in Edgefield, South Carolina, and earned a
7 bachelor's degree from Benedict College and a master of divinity degree from the
8 Interdenominational Theological Center at Morehouse School of Religion; and

9 WHEREAS, Reverend Mitchell served as pastor of Rockhill Baptist Church in Saluda, South
10 Carolina, before being called by the Lord in 1974 to lead the congregation of Connor's
11 Temple Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, his vision and direction helped Connor's Temple Baptist Church grow in size
13 and influence, uplifting the community like the light of Bethlehem and serving as a spiritual
14 leader and place for fellowship; and

15 WHEREAS, during his over five decades of leadership at Connor's Temple Baptist Church,
16 Reverend Mitchell spearheaded the purchase and renovation of the historic McKelvy-Powell
17 Building to serve as a community hub and as a positive symbol of change and community
18 activism; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Mitchell's work was honored with numerous awards and accolades,
20 including Omega Man of the Year, the Ivan Allen, Jr. Award for Excellence in Human
21 Relations, a WSOK Image Award, and a Fannie Lou Hamer Award; and

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

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
25 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on State Route 405 over State Route 204 in
26 Chatham County is dedicated as the Rev. Dr. Bennie R. Mitchell, Jr. Memorial Bridge.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
28 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Rev. Dr. Bennie R. Mitchell,
29 Jr. Memorial Bridge.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
32 family of Reverend Dr. Bennie R. Mitchell, Jr., and to the Department of Transportation.