

House Resolution 1215

By: Representatives Jasperse of the 11th, Chastain of the 7th, Hatchett of the 155th, Burns of the 159th, Powell of the 33rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of the Honorable David E. Ralston and dedicating an interstate connector
2 and bridge in his memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Honorable David E. Ralston was born on March 14, 1954, in Ellijay,
4 Georgia, a distinguished native son of North Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, he attended Young Harris College and later earned a bachelor's degree from
6 North Georgia College and State University and earned his law degree from the University
7 of Georgia School of Law; and

8 WHEREAS, Speaker Ralston dedicated his life to the service of the citizens of Gilmer and
9 Fannin counties, working to make their lives better in any way he could; and

10 WHEREAS, he ran a successful law practice providing sound legal advice and counsel in
11 Blue Ridge, Fannin County, Georgia, for more than four decades; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1992, he began a long and distinguished career in public service when he was
13 elected to the Georgia Senate, where he served three consecutive terms; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2002, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, where he was
15 elected Speaker in 2010, a position he held until his untimely death; and

16 WHEREAS, as Speaker, he shepherded many pieces of legislation beneficial to the citizens
17 of the great State of Georgia through the legislature, including tax relief, criminal justice
18 reform, transportation infrastructure funding modernization, and adoption reform; and

19 WHEREAS, he had a particular passion for improving the healthcare provided to Georgia's
20 citizens struggling with mental health issues; and

21 WHEREAS, on November 16, 2022, he died peacefully at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta
22 surrounded by his beloved wife Sheree; his children, Matt and Elizabeth; and other family
23 members; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
25 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an interstate connector and bridge in his
26 memory; and

27 WHEREAS, his legacy will live on as all who travel this interstate connector and bridge will
28 see his name forever being recognized.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
30 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of State Route 5/McCaysville Bypass in Fannin
31 County is dedicated as the Speaker David E. Ralston Interstate Connector.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the new bridge over the Toccoa/Ocoee River in
33 Fannin County is dedicated as the Speaker David E. Ralston Memorial Bridge.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
35 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Speaker David E. Ralston
36 Interstate Connector and the Speaker David E. Ralston Memorial Bridge.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 family of Speaker David E. Ralston and to the Department of Transportation.