

House Resolution 1597

By: Representative Taylor of the 173<sup>rd</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Major Henry Talmage Elrod and dedicating a bridge in his memory; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Major Henry Talmage Elrod was born in Turner County, Georgia, on  
4 September 27, 1905; and

5 WHEREAS, he graduated from Thomasville High School, where he was a standout player  
6 for the school's baseball and football teams, and went on to earn a position on the University  
7 of Georgia football team; and

8 WHEREAS, Major Elrod enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1927, was appointed  
9 to the rank of second lieutenant in 1931, and earned his wings as a naval aviator; and

10 WHEREAS, he earned the nickname "Hammerin' Hank," after he singlehandedly attacked 22  
11 Japanese bomber planes and shot down two on December 12, 1941, just days after the attack  
12 on Pearl Harbor; and

13 WHEREAS, Major Elrod was the first American to sink a Japanese warship from a fighter  
14 aircraft when he dropped bombs on the destroyer, *Kisaragi*; and

15 WHEREAS, he lost his life during a battle on Wake Island shortly after crash landing there  
16 and organizing a beach defense unit to push back the Japanese invasion; and

17 WHEREAS, Major Elrod was posthumously awarded a Medal of Honor, and a ship, the USS  
18 *Elrod*, has been commissioned in his honor; and

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

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on SR 38/US 84 over SR 3/SR 300/US 19 in  
23 Thomas County is dedicated as the Major Henry Talmage Elrod Medal of Honor Recipient  
24 Memorial Bridge.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
26 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Major Henry Talmage Elrod  
27 Medal of Honor Recipient Memorial Bridge.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
29 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
30 family of Major Henry Talmage Elrod and to the Department of Transportation.