

House Resolution 32

By: Representative Ralston of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mr. Cecil Mathews and dedicating a bridge in his memory; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Cecil Mathews was known in Ellijay, Georgia, for his innovation and
4 entrepreneurial spirit; and

5 WHEREAS, the son of parents with deep roots in Gilmer County, Mr. Mathews' wife,
6 Margaret, was a grocer, providing the local community with quality food and friendly
7 service; and

8 WHEREAS, he was passionate about fly fishing; an activity made even more enjoyable by
9 the abundance and beauty of the county's natural landscape and the majesty of Turniptown
10 Creek; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Mathews was in the lumber business his entire life, establishing his Ellijay
12 sawmill in October of 1965 after operating other lumber businesses in the area for 15 years;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, on March 15, 1966, he completed a total electrification of the business, which
15 allowed for streamlining of production and an increase in lumber supply used in the
16 manufacture of furniture and flooring; and

17 WHEREAS, an innovative feat for its day, the electrification of Mathews' sawmill enabled
18 him to saw over 15,000 feet of lumber per day, with only the grading completed by hand; and

19 WHEREAS, his foresight contributed to the modernization of the lumber industry and
20 attracted numerous other businesses to the Gilmer County area; and

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on State Route 515 at Turniptown Creek in
25 Gilmer County is dedicated as the Cecil Mathews Memorial Bridge.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
27 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Cecil Mathews Memorial
28 Bridge.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
31 family of Mr. Cecil Mathews and to the Department of Transportation.