

House Resolution 411 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Hightower of the 68th and Cooke of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

1 Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
4 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper Lieutenant Joseph "Joey" Keith
5 Boatright; and

6 WHEREAS, a graduate of Villa Rica High School, Trooper Lieutenant Boatright worked as
7 a radio operator for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Georgia State Patrol before
8 he was promoted to Corporal, Sergeant, and Post Commander of Post 4 in Villa Rica; and

9 WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer was an avid hunter and outdoors man
10 and was a community leader as a member of Villa Rica Lodge #72 and the Cattlemen's
11 Association; and

12 WHEREAS, Trooper Lieutenant Boatright exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty,
13 outstanding loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

14 **PART II**

15 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
16 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper Frederick Herman Looney on May
17 25, 1962; and

18 WHEREAS, a native of Cartersville, Georgia, Trooper Looney attended the 22nd Trooper
19 School and was assigned to service in Canton; and

20 WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer's life was cut short from injuries he
21 received in a patrol car crash on State Route 306 near Cumming; and

22 WHEREAS, Trooper Looney exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty,
23 fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

24 **PART III**

25 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
26 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper Sergeant Charles Eugene Gray on
27 August 16, 1961; and

28 WHEREAS, a native of Donalsonville, Georgia, Trooper Gray attended the 6th Trooper
29 School and was assigned to service at Post 14 in Donalsonville; and

30 WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer's life was cut short from injuries he
31 received in a vehicle crash en route from training in Americus to Donalsonville; and

32 WHEREAS, Trooper Gray exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine
33 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

34 **PART IV**

35 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
36 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper Harvey Lewis Nicholson on August
37 18, 1961; and

38 WHEREAS, a native of Decatur, Georgia, Trooper Nicholson attended the 12th Trooper
39 School and was assigned to service at Post 14 in Donalsonville; and

40 WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer's life was cut short from injuries he
41 received in a vehicle crash en route from training in Americus to Donalsonville; and

42 WHEREAS, Trooper Nicholson exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding
43 loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

44 **PART V**

45 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
46 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper Roy Cecil Massey on August 16,
47 1961; and

48 WHEREAS, a native of Thomasville, Georgia, Trooper Massey attended the 11th Trooper
49 School and was assigned to service at Post 14 in Donalsonville; and

50 WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer's life was cut short from injuries he
51 received in a vehicle crash en route from training in Americus to Donalsonville; and

52 WHEREAS, Trooper Massey exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty,
53 fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

54 **PART VI**

55 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
56 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Special Agent Welton Harrell on December
57 23, 1964; and

58 WHEREAS, a native of Camilla, Georgia, Special Agent Harrell attended the 14th Trooper
59 School and was assigned to service in Americus; and

60 WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer's life was cut short from injuries he
61 received while en route to a reported shooting in Terrell County; and

62 WHEREAS, Special Agent Harrell exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding
63 loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

64 **PART VII**

65 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
66 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Special Agent Garland E. Fields on March
67 3, 1948; and

68 WHEREAS, a native of Swainsboro, Georgia, Special Agent Fields was only on the job for
69 less than a month when he lost his life in a gun battle while investigating suspicious
70 individuals at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Swainsboro; and

71 WHEREAS, Special Agent Fields was the first Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent killed
72 in the line of duty; and

73 WHEREAS, Special Agent Fields exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding
74 loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

75

PART VIII

76 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
77 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper Sergeant William Fredrick Black,
78 Jr., on December 20, 1940; and

79 WHEREAS, a native of Macon, Georgia, Trooper Sergeant Black was assigned to District
80 2 in Cartersville and was highly regarded by the citizens of his community and state and by
81 local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to the sound
82 principles of law enforcement; and

83 WHEREAS, Trooper Sergeant Black was the first Georgia State Trooper to lose his life
84 during a vehicle stop after he was killed during a traffic stop on State Route 41 near
85 Ringgold; and

86 WHEREAS, in recognition of the ultimate sacrifice made for the call of duty, Trooper Black
87 was posthumously promoted from the rank of corporal to the rank of sergeant by then
88 Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety Lon Sullivan; and

89 WHEREAS, Trooper Sergeant Black exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding
90 loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

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PART IX

92 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
93 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper John Frank Bass on February 15,
94 1950; and

95 WHEREAS, a native of Hogansville, Georgia, Trooper Bass attended the 12th Trooper
96 School and was assigned to service in Cordele; and

97 WHEREAS, his life was taken in the line of duty when he was struck and killed by a hit and
98 run driver; and

99 WHEREAS, Trooper Bass exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine
100 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

101 **PART X**

102 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
103 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper Clyde Arthur Wehunt on April 20,
104 1951; and

105 WHEREAS, a native of Canton, Georgia, Trooper Wehunt attended the 12th Trooper School
106 and was assigned to service at Post 27 in Blue Ridge; and

107 WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer's life was cut short after a patrol car
108 crash on Ga. 5 in Fannin County; and

109 WHEREAS, Trooper Wehunt exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty,
110 fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

111 **PART XI**

112 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated law
113 enforcement officers with the tragic passing of Trooper Sergeant Major George W. Harrelson
114 on August 15, 1952; and

115 WHEREAS, a native of Helena, Georgia, Trooper Harrelson attended the 6th Trooper School
116 and was assigned to service as Security Aide to Governor Herman Talmadge; and

117 WHEREAS, this dedicated law enforcement officer's life was cut short after a car crash in
118 the City of Atlanta; and

119 WHEREAS, Trooper Harrelson exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding
120 loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties.

121 **PART XII**

122 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
123 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on Ga. 61 over Interstate 20 in Carroll County
124 is dedicated as the Trooper Lieutenant Joseph "Joey" Keith Boatright Memorial Bridge.

125 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 20 in Bartow
126 County from the Cherokee County line to Interstate 75 is dedicated as the Trooper Frederick
127 Herman Looney Memorial Highway.

128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 91 in Seminole
129 County from the city limits of Donalsonville, Georgia, to the Florida state line is dedicated
130 as the Trooper Sergeant Charles Eugene Gray Memorial Highway.

131 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of Ga. 45 and Ga. 234
132 in Calhoun County is dedicated as the Trooper Harvey Lewis Nicholson Memorial
133 Intersection.

134 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 122 in Thomas
135 County from the intersection of Ga. 33 South to the city limits of Patten, Georgia, is
136 dedicated as the Trooper Roy Cecil Massey Memorial Highway.

137 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 262 in Mitchell
138 County from the city limits of Vada, Georgia, east to the intersection of Ga. 112 is dedicated
139 as the Special Agent Welton Harrell Memorial Highway.

140 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 56 in Emanuel
141 County from U.S. 80 to the Burke County line is dedicated as the Special Agent Garland E.
142 Fields Memorial Highway.

143 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the interchange at Interstate 16 and
144 Ga. 87 in Bibb County is dedicated as the Trooper Sergeant William Fredrick Black, Jr.,
145 Memorial Interchange.

146 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Ga. 100 and Ga. 54 over
147 Interstate 85 in Troup County is dedicated as the Trooper John Frank Bass Memorial Bridge.

148 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 60 Spur in Fannin
149 County from Mineral Bluff to the North Carolina state line is dedicated as the Trooper Clyde
150 Arthur Wehunt Memorial Highway.

151 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Ga. 30 in Telfair
152 County from the intersection of U.S. 441 south of McRae, Georgia, to the city limits of
153 Milan, Georgia, is dedicated as the Trooper Sergeant Major George W. Harrelson Memorial
154 Highway.

155 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
156 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this
157 resolution.

158 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
159 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of
160 Transportation and to the families of Trooper Lieutenant Joseph "Joey" Keith Boatright;
161 Trooper Frederick Herman Looney; Trooper Sergeant Charles Eugene Gray; Trooper Harvey
162 Lewis Nicholson; Trooper Roy Cecil Massey; Special Agent Welton Harrell; Special Agent
163 Garland E. Fields; Trooper Sergeant William Fredrick Black, Jr.; Trooper John Frank Bass;
164 Trooper Clyde Arthur Wehunt; and Trooper Sergeant Major George W. Harrelson.