

Senate Resolution 204

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Unterman of the 45th, Martin of the 9th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Jones of the 25th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; authorizing the conveyance of
2 certain Georgia Department of Transportation owned real property located in Ben Hill
3 County; and for other purposes.

4 **PART I**

5 WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put
6 their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the
7 freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Kyle Gilbert demonstrated a deep personal commitment to protecting
9 democracy and a willingness to sacrifice his own personal safety and comfort to ensure the
10 well-being of his fellow man; and

11 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
12 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans, and was killed in
13 Afghanistan; and

14 WHEREAS, a graduate of Mill Creek High School, Mr. Gilbert was a junior leader of his
15 battalion and his commendations included the Army Commendation Medal, the Army
16 Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism
17 Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Gilbert was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable
19 reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of
20 his life, he made this world a better place in which to live; and

21 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Gilbert will long be remembered for
22 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal son, brother, and friend will be missed by all
23 who had the great fortune of knowing him; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Gilbert embodied the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in something
25 greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and
26 distinguished American be recognized appropriately by dedicating a highway in his memory.

27

PART II

28 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and civil rights activists on
29 August 15, 2015, with the passing of Mr. Horace Julian Bond; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and raised in Pennsylvania while
31 his father served as the first African American president of Lincoln University; and

32 WHEREAS, he attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he helped found *The Pegasus*,
33 a literary magazine, and worked as an intern at *TIME* magazine; and

34 WHEREAS, during his time at Morehouse College, Mr. Bond was a founding member of the
35 Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, led nonviolent student protests against segregation
36 in Atlanta parks, restaurants, and movie theaters, and helped form the Student Nonviolent
37 Coordinating Committee in Raleigh, North Carolina; and

38 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond was voted into the Georgia House of Representatives in 1965 but
39 could not take his seat until court ordered action in 1967 because the legislature refused to
40 swear him in due to his vocal opposition to the Vietnam War; and

41 WHEREAS, he served in the House of Representatives until 1975 and went on to serve in
42 the Georgia Senate from 1975 to 1986, sponsoring more than 60 bills that were ratified into
43 law during his tenure with the General Assembly; and

44 WHEREAS, Mr. Bond served as president of the Southern Poverty Law Center from 1971
45 to 1979 and was an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of
46 Colored People from 1998 to 2010; and

47 WHEREAS, he served as a commentator for NBC's "Today" show, wrote a national
48 newspaper column, and produced poems that have appeared in publications such as the
49 *Nation* and the *New York Times*; and

50 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
51 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

52 **PART III**

53 WHEREAS, Samuel L. and LaTanya Jackson have long been recognized for their talent on
54 stage and ability to bring joy and delight to audiences; and

55 WHEREAS, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, LaTanya Richardson Jackson was a student at
56 Spelman College when she met her husband, Samuel, while he was attending Morehouse
57 College; and

58 WHEREAS, Samuel has appeared in more than 100 films and is one of Hollywood's most
59 respected actors, with an incredible career spanning five decades; and

60 WHEREAS, he is cool like Fonzie, starring as Jules, the philosopher hit man, in the cult
61 classic *Pulp Fiction* and appearing in numerous other Quentin Tarantino films, including *The*
62 *Hateful Eight*, *Kill Bill*, and *Django Unchained*; and

63 WHEREAS, his depth as an actor can be further demonstrated by his wide-ranging roles in
64 movies such as *Jackie Brown*, *Jurassic Park*, *The Long Kiss Goodnight*, *A Time to Kill*, *The*
65 *Incredibles*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Snakes on a Plane*, and the *Avengers* and *Star Wars* series;
66 and

67 WHEREAS, a standout actress in her own right, LaTanya starred in the 2003 musical *The*
68 *Fighting Temptations* and was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Lead Actress in a Play
69 for her role in the 2013 performance of *A Raisin in the Sun*; and

70 WHEREAS, they are blessed with one remarkable daughter, Zoe Jackson, who is a freelance
71 film and television producer; and

72 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the members of this body recognize the
73 lives and careers of these distinguished individuals by dedicating a road in their honor.

74 **PART IV**

75 WHEREAS, the Berrong family of Towns County, Georgia, has a rich history and tradition
76 of service to the community; and

77 WHEREAS, Mr. Jay Berrong served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with
78 the United States military during World War II and was captured as a prisoner of war; and

79 WHEREAS, several members of the Berrong family sacrificed their own safety and comfort
80 to protect and serve this nation in the military; and

81 WHEREAS, Mr. Kris Berrong continues his family's tradition of service as a member of the
82 Hiawassee City Council; and

83 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanford Berrong ran the town store in High Tower while the Titus post
84 office was operated by Mr. Homer Berrong; and

85 WHEREAS, generations of the Berrong family have lived their entire lives near the bridge
86 on SR 2/US 76 near Clayton Mountain Road; and

87 WHEREAS, some of Towns County's first educators were members of the Berrong family
88 while Mr. Darren Berrong serves as the current superintendent for Towns County high
89 schools; and

90 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
91 Georgia family be recognized appropriately by dedicating a bridge in their honor.

92 **PART V**

93 WHEREAS, Mr. Tyler Perry was born on September 13, 1969, in New Orleans, Louisiana;
94 and

95 WHEREAS, in 1998, his first musical, *I Know I've Been Changed*, premiered at the famous
96 Fox Theatre in Atlanta; in 2005, his first feature film, *Diary Of A Mad Black Woman*,
97 debuted at number one; and in 2006, he released his first book, *Don't Make A Black Woman
98 Take Off Her Earrings: Madea's Uninhibited Commentaries On Life And Love*, which
99 remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for eight weeks; and

100 WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. Perry's comedic talents delighted audiences worldwide with the
101 TBS series *House of Payne* and later with the series *Meet the Browns*, which were the highest
102 and second highest rated first-run syndicated cable shows of all time, respectively, and he
103 currently has four television series on Oprah Winfrey's network, OWN; and

104 WHEREAS, in 2008, he revitalized Delta Airlines' former headquarters and opened a
105 200,000 square foot studio in Atlanta that employs hundreds of Georgians, and in 2015,
106 Mr. Perry bought 330 acres of the former military base, Fort McPherson, on which he will

107 restore and construct state-of-the-art facilities that will open the door for local business
108 opportunities and job creation in the motion picture and television industry; and

109 WHEREAS, Mr. Perry strongly supports our state and national communities through
110 charities such as Feeding America, Covenant House, Hosea Feed the Hungry, Project
111 Adventure, Perry Place, and his own foundation, the Tyler Perry Foundation, which
112 transforms tragedy into triumph by empowering economically disadvantaged youths, seniors,
113 and families to overcome adversity by achieving a better quality of life; and

114 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
115 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

116 **PART VI**

117 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation is the owner of a certain parcel of
118 improved real property located in Ben Hill County; and

119 WHEREAS, said real property is all of that improved parcel or tract of approximately 3.81
120 acres described as the former Fitzgerald GDOT Field Office lying and being in Land Lot 91,
121 3rd Land District, City of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County and acquired on March 11, 2004 from
122 Village Plaza, Inc., which is recorded at Deed Book 557, Pages 281-282 of the Superior
123 Court of Ben Hill County; and

124 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation, pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section
125 32-7-3, declared the approximately 3.81 acres of improved real property surplus to its current
126 and future needs for public road purposes, and resolved to surplus the above-described
127 property; and

128 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia on behalf of the Georgia Department of Human Services,
129 Division of Family and Children Services desires to purchase the approximately 3.81 acres
130 for the consideration of the fair market value.

131 **PART VII**

132 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
133 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of State Route 20 from I-985 to State Route 13
134 in Gwinnett County is dedicated as the Kyle Gilbert Memorial Highway.

135 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 129 from
 136 Cascade Road to State Route 14 (Whitehall Street) in Fulton County is dedicated as the
 137 Julian Bond Memorial Highway.

138 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of the State Route 3
 139 Connector from State Route 3/Northside/Metropolitan to State Route 14/154 Peters Street
 140 in Fulton County is dedicated as the Samuel L. and LaTanya Jackson Highway.

141 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on SR 2/US 76 located near
 142 Clayton Mountain Road running from Rabun County into Towns County is dedicated as the
 143 Berrong Bridge.

144 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Lee Street from the
 145 West End Mall to the entrance of Fort McPherson in Fulton County is dedicated as the Tyler
 146 Perry Highway.

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

150 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
 151 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Department of
 152 Transportation; to Samuel L. and LaTanya Richardson Jackson, the Berrong family, and Mr.
 153 Tyler Perry; and to the family of Mr. Kyle Gilbert and Mr. Horace Julian Bond.

154 **PART VIII**

155 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

156 **SECTION 1.**

157 That the Georgia Department of Transportation is the owner of the above-described real
 158 property located in Ben Hill County and that in all matters relating to the conveyance of said
 159 real property the Department of Transportation is acting by and through the State Properties
 160 Commission.

161 **SECTION 2.**

162 That the Georgia Department of Transportation is authorized to waive the sealed bid process
 163 pursuant to Code Sections 32-7-3 and 32-7-4 of the O.C.G.A. and convey the
 164 above-described real property by appropriate instrument to the State of Georgia, acting by

165 and through the State Properties Commission, for the consideration of fair market value
166 which shall not exceed \$365,000.00.

167 **SECTION 3.**

168 That the authorization in this resolution to convey the above-described real property shall
169 expire three years after the date this resolution becomes effective.

170 **SECTION 4.**

171 That the deed of conveyance shall be recorded by the Grantee in the Superior Court of Ben
172 Hill County, Georgia and a recorded copy shall be forwarded to the Georgia Department of
173 Transportation.

174 **SECTION 5.**

175 That ownership of the above-described real property shall remain in the Georgia Department
176 of Transportation until the property is conveyed.