

House Resolution 286

By: Representative Holmes of the 129th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mr. Otis Ray Redding, Jr., and dedicating a bridge in his memory; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Otis Ray Redding, Jr., was a singer, song writer, record producer, arranger,
4 and talent scout who has been called one of the 'Kings of Soul' for his amazing talent as a
5 soul music and rhythm and blues artist; and

6 WHEREAS, he was born in Dawson, Georgia, on September 9, 1941, the beloved son of
7 Fannie Mae Redding and Otis Redding, Sr.; and

8 WHEREAS, at the age of 15, Mr. Redding quit school to help financially support his family
9 after his father contracted tuberculosis, working as a well digger, gas station attendant, and
10 musician; and

11 WHEREAS, he performed in talent shows for prize money and with Little Richard's backing
12 band, the Upsetters; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Redding's first single, *Arms of Mine*, hit the musical charts in 1962 and he
14 was famous for such other hits as *Respect* and *Try a Little Tenderness*; and

15 WHEREAS, after his untimely and tragic passing in an airplane crash, Mr. Redding's iconic
16 *(Sittin' on) The Dock of the Bay* became the first posthumous number one record on both the
17 *Billboard* Hot 100 and R & B charts; and

18 WHEREAS, he was recognized with numerous posthumous honors and accolades, including
19 a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame,
20 the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Post Office recognized Mr. Redding's enduring
22 musical influence and talent by issuing a commemorative stamp in his honor; and

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

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
26 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge structures on the Gray Bypass over SR 11 in
27 Jones County is dedicated as the Otis Redding Memorial Bridge.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
29 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Otis Redding Memorial
30 Bridge.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 family of Mr. Otis Ray Redding, Jr., and to the Department of Transportation.