

House Resolution 648

By: Representatives Lumsden of the 12th, Dempsey of the 13th, Scoggins of the 14th, Tarvin of the 2nd, and Cameron of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Bobby Lee Cook and dedicating an intersection in his
2 memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens with the passing of Mr. Bobby
4 Lee Cook on February 19, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was highly regarded by the citizens of this state and by members of
6 the legal community across the country as a person of unquestioned integrity with an
7 unparalleled commitment to defending the rights of the accused; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was born in Chattoogaville, Georgia, on February 12, 1927, where
9 he was raised in a small rural home without running water and learned the value of personal
10 discipline and duty through his work at his family's local grocery store; and

11 WHEREAS, he enrolled in Gordon Academy, a military school, as a teenager and lied about
12 his age in order to enlist in the United States Navy to serve as a guardian of this nation's
13 freedom and liberty during World War II, where he also honed his fighting skills as a boxer;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Alabama, Mr. Cook earned his law degree from
16 Vanderbilt Law School and began his legal career with his own practice in 1949 in
17 Summerville, Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, his personal discipline, sharp legal acumen, expansive knowledge base, fighting
19 spirit, and devotion to helping others were evident in his representation of clients and
20 throughout his career; and

21 WHEREAS, for decades, Mr. Cook was hired for, or consulted on, nearly every high profile
22 case in Georgia and his practice went on to transcend Georgia, with victories in murder trials
23 in Germany and Vietnam; and

24 WHEREAS, long believed as the inspiration for the television character Matlock, one of Mr.
25 Cook's most colorful cases is recounted in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Cook will long be remembered for his tireless advocacy for people of all
27 economic strata, his commitment to the legal profession through his mentorship of other
28 attorneys and imparting knowledge at seminars, and his razor-sharp wit; and

29 WHEREAS, widely known as the Dean of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Mr. Cook's work was
30 recognized with numerous honors and accolades throughout his prestigious career, including
31 lifetime achievement awards by both the National and Georgia Associations of Criminal
32 Defense Lawyers; Georgia State University College of Law School's 2017 Ben F. Johnson
33 Jr. Public Service Award; GreenLaw's Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Small Town
34 Lawyer Made Good Award from the State Bar of Washington; was inducted into the
35 American Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame; and has his portrait displayed in the Georgia Supreme
36 Court; and

37 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
38 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in his memory.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
40 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the intersection at State Route 48 and State Route 157 in
41 Chattooga County is dedicated as the Bobby Lee Cook Memorial Intersection.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
43 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Bobby Lee Cook Memorial
44 Intersection.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
47 family of Mr. Bobby Lee Cook.