

House Resolution 719

By: Representative Waites of the 60th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mr. John Charles Birdine, Jr., and dedicating a bridge in his memory;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Mr. John Charles Birdine, Jr., played a vital role in
4 leadership and demonstrated that he was truly a man of great courage, determination, and
5 passion; and

6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
7 States military, sustained disabling injuries after two tours of duty in Vietnam, and was
8 recognized with the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and Vietnam service and campaign
9 medals; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Birdine served with the National Black Men's Health Network, the Zoning
11 Review Board of the City of Atlanta, the Price Economic Opportunity Atlanta, the Black
12 Family Project, the Metro Atlanta Kwanza Committee, the Poole Creek Neighborhood
13 Relocation Committee, and Foxhead Development Corporation; and

14 WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance were instrumental as chairman of Atlanta's
15 Neighborhood Planning Unit Z and he was recognized with awards from the International
16 Register of Profiles, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and
17 Cleveland Elementary School; and

18 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith who was loyal to country and prideful of his
19 African American heritage, Mr. Birdine was an active member of Travelers Rest Baptist
20 Church, the Dodd-Sterling Methodist Church, the Neighborhood Justice Center, Gate City
21 Heritage House, the Disabled American Veterans Association, the NAACP, and the
22 Association for the Studies of Classical African Civilization; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Birdine was largely responsible for the recovery and restoration of a slave
24 graveyard containing approximately 300 to 400 unmarked graves directly under the
25 Cleveland Avenue Bridge over Interstate 75 in Fulton County; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Birdine was the loving husband of Thelma Loretta L. Birdine, the proud
27 father of five children, and a doting grandfather to ten grandchildren; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
29 this distinguished Georgian be recognized by naming a bridge in his honor.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on Cleveland Avenue over Interstate 75 in
32 Fulton County is dedicated as the John Charles Birdine, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
34 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the John Charles Birdine, Jr.,
35 Memorial Bridge.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Mr. John
38 Charles Birdine, Jr., and to the Department of Transportation.