

House Resolution 75

By: Representative Ralston of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mr. Benjamin "Benny" Norton Whitaker and dedicating an intersection
2 in his memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia continues to mourn the loss of one of its most distinguished
4 citizens with the passing of Mr. Benjamin "Benny" Norton Whitaker on August 13, 2015;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, a native of Gilmer County, Georgia, Mr. Whitaker was born on
7 September 1, 1927, the beloved son of Cecil and Ovaline Norton Whitaker; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker was well known and respected for his leadership and guidance
9 as a Gilmer County commissioner and state representative for the 7th District; and

10 WHEREAS, known as the "Common Man Candidate" and "Common Sense Candidate," Mr.
11 Whitaker diligently and conscientiously served the citizens of Gilmer County as county
12 commissioner from 1972 to 1988 and as a state representative from 1992 to 1998; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker spent 28 years in the produce business, in which he developed
14 a fiscal responsibility which transferred to his leadership as a county and state representative,
15 where he demonstrated great care to save the county money; and

16 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in securing property for a new public library and the site
17 of Dalton State College satellite campus, helped oversee the building of the Whitepath Golf
18 Course and Gilmer County Civic Center, and worked with the state transportation board for
19 the construction of Highway 515; and

20 WHEREAS, his diligent efforts led to the extension of a natural gas line to Ellijay, the
21 organization of Gilmer County's first official fire department, and the construction of Gilmer
22 County's first senior citizen center; and

23 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the General Assembly, Mr. Whitaker sponsored
24 numerous pieces of legislation that uplifted the North Georgia mountain communities and
25 state, including the establishment of the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
26 program, secured funding for court record modernization, and support of the North Georgia
27 Medical Center; and

28 WHEREAS, during his time with the General Assembly, Mr. Whitaker sponsored and led
29 the passage of a law requiring visible identification on all vehicles owned by the state; and

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

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
33 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the intersection of State Route 515 and First Avenue in
34 Gilmer County is dedicated as the Ben Whitaker Intersection.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
36 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Ben Whitaker Intersection.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 family of Mr. Benjamin "Benny" Norton Whitaker and to the Department of Transportation.