

Senate Resolution 477

By: Senator James of the 35th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the lives of Dr. Eugene Edgar Thomas and Mr. Elmo James, Jr., and dedicating an  
2 intersection in their memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Eugene Edgar Thomas was born on May 14, 1928, in Atlanta, Georgia, a  
4 beloved son of Edgar Thomas and Sophia Lyman Thomas; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1946, where  
6 he was an honor student and a basketball star, and received an academic and sports  
7 scholarship to the Tuskegee Institute; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas received a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical  
9 education in 1950, then later studied at Atlanta University and Georgia State College; he  
10 served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army,  
11 valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during the Korean Conflict,  
12 where he served for three years as a second lieutenant; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1953, Dr. Thomas was appointed assistant boys work director by the Butler  
14 Street YMCA; and, in 1955, he entered the teaching profession, in which he served the  
15 Atlanta Public School System for 31 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas received many awards and honors throughout his career, including  
17 being named Teacher of the Year twice, being selected Star Teacher by a former student in  
18 1969, and being honored by WXIA with "The Community Service Award for Rendering  
19 Outstanding Service to Youth" in the city of Atlanta in 1978; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas served on the staff of the George Washington Carver Boys and  
21 Girls Club and was appointed unit director of the Salvation Army Bellwood Boys and Girls  
22 Club, a position in which he served for 26 years; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Elmo James, Jr., was born on June 14, 1943, the beloved son of Elmo  
24 James, Sr., and Ozzie Thomas; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. James graduated with honors from Archer High School and attended  
26 Morehouse College on a full academic scholarship; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. James served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the  
28 United States Army during the Vietnam War and later worked as an air traffic controller for  
29 the Federal Aviation Administration at Hampton, Georgia's regional air station; and

30 WHEREAS, after 14 years with the Federal Aviation Administration, Mr. James became an  
31 entrepreneur in a downtown Atlanta business and was a constant support for his wife and Dr.  
32 Thomas' daughter, Senator Donzella James, in her work as a public servant; and

33 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that these remarkable and distinguished  
34 Georgians be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in their memory.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
36 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the intersection of John Lewis Freedom Parkway (State  
37 Route 10) and Boulevard NE in Fulton County is dedicated as the Dr. Eugene Thomas and  
38 Elmo James Overlook Intersection.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
40 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Dr. Eugene Thomas and Elmo  
41 James Overlook Intersection.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
43 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the families of Dr.  
44 Eugene Edgar Thomas, Mr. Elmo James, Jr., and to the Department of Transportation.