

Senate Resolution 745

By: Senators Millar of the 40th, Shafer of the 48th, Henson of the 41st and Unterman of the 45th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, Robert H. "Bob" Bell honorably served this state as a member of the Georgia
4 General Assembly from 1969 through 1982, serving four years in the House of
5 Representatives and ten years in the Senate; and

6 WHEREAS, for his service in the General Assembly, he was honored by the *Atlanta*
7 *Journal-Constitution Magazine* as one of Georgia's Ten Best Legislators in 1980 and by the
8 National Conference of State Legislatures as one of the nation's Ten Outstanding Legislators
9 in 1981; and

10 WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including the
11 Georgia Municipal Association Award for outstanding service to Georgia citizens, the
12 Association of the United States Army award for exceptional service in support of national
13 defense, the Friend of the Children award of the Council for Children for his work in juvenile
14 justice reform, and the Red Cross award for outstanding legislative contributions and was
15 cited by the National Rifle Association and the Georgia Wildlife Association for his
16 legislative service; and

17 WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance were instrumental as chairman of the Republican
18 Party of Georgia, and he was the Republican Party nominee for Governor in 1982; and

19 WHEREAS, he served the citizens of Georgia with honor and distinction, and his vision and
20 unyielding commitment set the standard for public service; and

21 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
22 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating interchanges in his honor.

23

PART II

24 WHEREAS, Honorable William "Bill" Jones serves as CEO of Jones Petroleum and JP
25 Capital & Insurance, Inc.; and

26 WHEREAS, a native of Jackson, Georgia, Mr. Jones earned bachelor's and master's degrees
27 from the University of Georgia and an L.L.B. degree from Atlanta Law School; and

28 WHEREAS, he founded Jones Petroleum in 1968 with the purchase of a single convenience
29 store and through dedication and sacrifice built a diversified company with over 500
30 employees; and

31 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones served four terms in the Georgia General Assembly and is the
32 youngest professional in Georgia history to serve as Superintendent of Schools in Butts
33 County; and

34 WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance were instrumental as chairman of the Butts County
35 Water & Sewage Department and the Industrial Development Authority of Butts County as
36 well as numerous organizations, including the Georgia Oilman's Association, Georgia Food
37 Industry Association, C&S National Bank, Gordon State College Foundation, Partners for
38 Smart Growth, National Senatorial Committee, Convenient Stores Association of Georgia,
39 and the Piedmont and Georgia Cattleman's Associations; and

40 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including
41 the 2012 Butts County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame Award and the 2013 University
42 of Georgia Graduate School Alumni of Distinction Award; and

43 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
44 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

45

PART III

46 WHEREAS, Mr. A. Frank Williams has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
47 the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the
48 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

49 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
50 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced
51 dramatically by his 44 years of superlative service with the City of Hephzibah Commission;
52 and

53 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams' significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable
54 patience and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the
55 citizens of this state earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates;
56 and

57 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
58 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

59 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served with honor and distinction with the City of Hephzibah
60 Commission, and his vision and unyielding commitment set the standard for public service;
61 and

62 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
63 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

64 **PART IV**

65 WHEREAS, Attorney General Thurbert Baker served as attorney general for the State of
66 Georgia for 13 years under three different Governors; and

67 WHEREAS, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel
68 Hill and a law degree from Emory University; and

69 WHEREAS, Attorney General Baker began his career in politics with the Georgia General
70 Assembly, spending eight years in the House of Representatives, where he served as the
71 House Floor Leader for Governor Zell Miller and was instrumental in shepherding the
72 passage of legislation establishing the HOPE scholarship program; and

73 WHEREAS, Attorney General Baker has been consistently selected as one of the "100 Most
74 Influential Georgians" by *Georgia Trend* magazine; and

75 WHEREAS, in 2009, he received the first annual Barack Obama Political Leadership award
76 from the National Bar Association, and he was recently selected by *Men Looking Ahead*
77 magazine as its Man of the Year; and

78 WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance have been instrumental to numerous organizations,
79 including the National Association of Attorneys General, the American Bar Association's
80 House of Delegates, the Democratic Attorneys General Association, and the Republican
81 Attorneys General Association; and

82 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
83 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating an interchange in his
84 honor.

85 **PART V**

86 WHEREAS, Mr. Troy Simpson was born in Habersham County, Georgia, on August 5,
87 1933, and was a lifelong resident of the community; and

88 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Simpson was a devoted member of Hazel
89 Creek Baptist Church and served as a Habersham County Rotarian; and

90 WHEREAS, Mr. Simpson sacrificed his own safety and comfort to protect and serve this
91 nation in the United States Army and began a career in the automobile industry upon
92 returning home from defending our nation; and

93 WHEREAS, Mr. Simpson dedicated himself to public service for more than 20 years,
94 including service as a Habersham County Commissioner; and

95 WHEREAS, Mr. Simpson served with honor and distinction on the State Transportation
96 Board from 1969 until 1982, which included a term as chairman; and

97 WHEREAS, during his service on the State Transportation Board, Mr. Simpson was
98 instrumental in the development of one of the most prominent roadway projects in Georgia
99 with the completion of State Route 365; and

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

102

PART VI

103 WHEREAS, Mr. Horace Fitzpatrick was born on January 18, 1930, the beloved son of Ernest
104 Obediah Fitzpatrick and Chester Bonnie White and youngest of 13 children; and

105 WHEREAS, a graduate of Ila High School in 1947 where he served as class president, Mr.
106 Fitzpatrick earned his bachelor's degree, master's degree, and specialist degree from the
107 University of Georgia; and

108 WHEREAS, he dedicated 16 years to inspiring the future leaders of this state as an educator
109 in White County, where he instilled in his pupils his core values, morals, and respect for
110 others and how to become a valuable and contributing member of society; and

111 WHEREAS, a hero to many of his students, Mr. Fitzpatrick was elected to serve as White
112 County Superintendent of Schools in 1968 and served in this position for 12 years; and

113 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
114 talents, and energy toward the betterment of education for all Georgians as further evidenced
115 by his ten years of service with the Department of Education; and

116 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
117 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

118 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
119 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an intersection in his honor.

120

PART VII

121 WHEREAS, Mr. Rudy Bowen was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended Dawson County
122 High School as well as the University of Georgia; and

123 WHEREAS, a former lumber salesman, Mr. Bowen founded Bowen Family Homes in 1969
124 when he built a new home in Gwinnett County; and

125 WHEREAS, over the next five years, Mr. Bowen constructed an average of 50 homes a year
126 and, in 1985, the company began its own land development efforts, which allowed the
127 company to avoid third-party costs; and

128 WHEREAS, to this day, Bowen Family Homes constructs entire communities and provides
129 customers with a total home buying experience; and

130 WHEREAS, Bowen Family Homes was the fourth largest in metro Atlanta with 59 homes
131 closed, according to the 2009-2010 *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Book of Lists, and it
132 generated \$165 million in revenue in 2008 with 30 full-time employees; and

133 WHEREAS, Bowen Family Homes was recognized as the 25th largest privately owned
134 builder in the country by *Builder Magazine* for 2005 and in 2007 and was named Georgia
135 Family Business of the Year among medium sized companies by *Georgia Trend* and the Cox
136 Family Enterprise Center at Kennesaw State University; and

137 WHEREAS, *The Atlanta Business Chronicle* ranked Bowen Family Homes fifth among
138 metro Atlanta builders in 2007 and 40th among Atlanta's Top Private Companies for 2007;
139 and

140 WHEREAS, Bowen Family Homes was ranked 83rd on the 2007 Professional Builder Giant
141 400 largest homebuilders in the United States list; and

142 WHEREAS, Mr. Bowen has been happily married to his wife, Jean, for 56 years; is the father
143 of Allison, Beth, and David; and has eight wonderful grandchildren; and

144 WHEREAS, he has performed many unspoken acts of stewardship on behalf of the Gwinnett
145 County community and the State of Georgia and made donations to Children's Healthcare
146 of Atlanta and Gwinnett Children's Center; and

147 WHEREAS, Bowen Family Homes helped build a hospice for the children in Gwinnett,
148 donated to the American Red Cross after Hurricane Katrina, and participated in several other
149 civic projects and causes; and

150 WHEREAS, Mr. Bowen has served diligently on the Department of Transportation Board
151 since 2007, representing the 7th Congressional District, and he previously served as
152 chairman; and

153 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
154 Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating a road in his honor.

155

PART VIII

156 WHEREAS, Mr. John D. Stephens may be best known for his long and accomplished career
157 in construction, real estate, banking, and waste management, but he has also made his
158 mark on the civic community of the Atlanta region; and

159 WHEREAS, in 2000, a lifetime in the contracting business led Mr. Stephens to take on what
160 may be his legacy project - the construction of the fifth runway of the world's busiest airport
161 at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport; and

162 WHEREAS, needing 17 million cubic yards of fill to build up the runway, he and his three
163 sons, Mike, Mark, and Mitch, formed Stephens MDS LP and acquired 485 acres of property
164 adjacent to the airport; and

165 WHEREAS, to complete this mammoth project, the company built a four-mile overland
166 conveyor system that crossed streams and interstate highways and, over a two-year period,
167 moved enough dirt and rock to fill the Georgia Dome six times; and

168 WHEREAS, the conveyor system was reliable and cost efficient and hailed for limiting the
169 project's impact on the environment; and

170 WHEREAS, as that project neared completion, Mr. Stephens recognized that the residential
171 and commercial development trends in the region would produce a demand for a sustainable
172 waste management facility, so he opened a construction and demolition disposal facility on
173 the very land from which he borrowed fill for the runway project; and

174 WHEREAS, by 2005, Mr. Stephens had organized Stephens Rock and Dirt, Inc., an on-site
175 recycling operation that accepts soil, concrete, and other inert materials which are processed
176 and resold as raw materials, thereby preserving precious landfill space; and

177 WHEREAS, Stephens MDS continues to provide dirt and aggregate rock fill to the City of
178 Atlanta for ongoing construction at the world's busiest airport, Hartsfield-Jackson
179 International Airport; and

180 WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance have been instrumental to numerous organizations,
181 including on the Board of Trustees of Georgia Gwinnett College, the Board of Directors of

182 the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Utility Contractors Association,
183 and the Georgia Board of Industry, Trade, and Tourism; and

184 WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including the
185 Citizen of the Year Award in 2006, the Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Environmental Legacy
186 Award in 2007, and the naming of the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce's Education
187 Center in his honor; and

188 WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens and his wife, Beverly, reside in Snellville, Georgia, where they
189 enjoy their five children and nine grandchildren and are active supporters of many charitable
190 causes, including the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of
191 America, Hi-Hope Service Center in Lawrenceville, and Gwinnett Children's Shelter; and

192 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
193 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

194 **PART IX**

195 WHEREAS, Mr. Virgil R. Williams graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in
196 1963 and as a senior, developed a 40 home subdivision, a gas station, and 12 unit apartment
197 project in his native Atlanta; and

198 WHEREAS, upon graduation, he became president of Williams Contracting, a company that
199 has made its mark in industrial contracting, environmental services, civil and industrial
200 engineering, construction services, and real estate; and

201 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams conceived the "Williams Plan," which showed companies how
202 to save millions of dollars in maintenance costs and reinvented service in the heavy and
203 complicated manufacturing and utility industries; and

204 WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, he purchased a small group of banks in the Atlanta area and
205 convinced Kroger supermarkets to allow him to open branches in their Georgia stores; and

206 WHEREAS, this innovation changed the face of modern banking, with Mr. Williams
207 utilizing this idea nationwide in the form of International Banking Technologies; his financial
208 institutions eventually became part of Bank of America, one of the largest banks in the
209 United States; and

210 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was a member of the Bank of America Board of Directors, where
211 he served on the Executive Committee and the Compensation Committee and chaired the
212 Governance Committee until his retirement; and

213 WHEREAS, he served as Governor Zell Miller's chief of staff from 1991 to 1995, where he
214 chaired a monumental study on effectiveness and economy in government; during his tenure
215 in state government, Mr. Williams also served on the Georgia Board of Regents and assisted
216 in other activities for Governor Miller; and

217 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams has served on the Board of Trustees at Young Harris College, the
218 Board of Councilors of the Carter Center, and serves on the Board of the Savannah College
219 of Art and Design; he is also a past director of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and past
220 executive committee member of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; and he continues
221 to serve as a director of the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce; and

222 WHEREAS, in 1994, he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni by both the Georgia
223 Institute of Technology School of Engineering and the School of Industrial Systems
224 Engineering, and in 2005, became the managing member of LLI Management Company,
225 LLC, a resort enterprise of the Virgil R. Williams Family, which owns the long-term
226 leasehold interests in Lake Lanier Islands Resort; and

227 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
228 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating a road in his honor.

229

PART X

230 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
231 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the north and south interchanges of Interstate 85 at
232 Exit 94/Chamblee Tucker Road are dedicated as the Robert H. "Bob" Bell Interchanges.

233 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of State Route 16 from
234 Interstate 75/State Route 401 to State Route 42 in Butts County is dedicated as the
235 Honorable William "Bill" Jones Highway.

236 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of Georgia Highway 88
237 within the City of Hephzibah in Richmond County is dedicated as the A. Frank Williams
238 Highway.

239 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the interchange on Interstate 20 at
240 State Route 12/State Route 124/Turner Hill Road in DeKalb County is dedicated as the
241 Thurbert Baker Interchange.

242 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the bridge on Historic US 441 in
243 Habersham County is dedicated as the Troy Simpson Memorial Bridge.

244 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the intersection of U.S. 129 with
245 Westmoreland Road in White County is dedicated as the Horace Fitzpatrick Intersection.

246 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of GA 20 from
247 Windermere Parkway in Forsyth County to Suwanee Dam Road in Gwinnett County is
248 dedicated as the Rudy Bowen Highway.

249 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of GA 124 from State
250 Route 10/US 78 to GA 316 in Gwinnett County is dedicated as the John D. Stephens
251 Highway.

252 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED that the portion of GA 347 from Interstate
253 985/GA 365 to McEver Road in Hall County is dedicated as the Virgil Williams Highway.

254 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
255 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this
256 resolution.

257 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized to
258 correct any errors in the spelling of names included in this resolution without further action
259 from the General Assembly.

260 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
261 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Department of
262 Transportation; to Robert H. "Bob" Bell, Honorable William "Bill" Jones,
263 Mr. A. Frank Williams, Attorney General Thurbert Baker, Mr. Rudy Bowen,
264 Mr. John D. Stephens, and Mr. Virgil Williams; and to the families of Mr. Troy Simpson and
265 Mr. Horace Fitzpatrick.