

Senate Resolution 867

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Gooch of the 51st, Martin of the 9th, Jones of the 25th and Cowser of the 46th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mr. Virgil R. Williams and dedicating a road in his memory; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Virgil R. Williams graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in
4 1963 and as a senior, developed a 40 home subdivision, a gas station, and 12 unit apartment
5 project in his native Atlanta; and

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, he served as Governor Zell Miller's chief of staff from 1991 to 1995, where he
22 chaired a monumental study on effectiveness and economy in government; during his tenure

23 in state government, Mr. Williams also served on the Georgia Board of Regents and assisted
24 in other activities for Governor Miller; and

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

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

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

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
38 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of GA 347 from Interstate 985/GA 365 to
39 McEver Road in Hall County is dedicated as the Virgil Williams Highway.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
41 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Virgil Williams Highway.

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 Mr. Virgil Williams
44 and to the Department of Transportation.