

Senate Resolution 889

By: Senator Black of the 8th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mr. Joseph "Sonny" Alexander Vickers and dedicating a bridge in his honor;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph "Sonny" Alexander Vickers was born in Valdosta, Georgia, to Jessie  
4 Lee and Mattie Vickers; and

5 WHEREAS, as a young man, Mr. Vickers petitioned city leaders over his concern about long  
6 wait times at the train crossing on West Hill Avenue in Valdosta that prevented citizens and  
7 first responders from traveling between the west side of town and the downtown area; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Vickers' passion for advocacy and helping his neighbors continued with a  
9 lifelong career in public service as a city councilman for Valdosta's District 3; and

10 WHEREAS, during his 32 year career as a council member, Mr. Vickers has been highly  
11 regarded by the citizens of his community and by state and local government officials as a  
12 person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to his community; and

13 WHEREAS, Valdosta citizens have experienced significant quality of life improvements  
14 thanks to Mr. Vickers' leadership which includes initiatives for the installation of streetlights  
15 and the establishment of a housing program; and

16 WHEREAS, he helped organize the Black Community Action Group, founded the Valdosta  
17 Youth Voters League, served as chairperson for the Valdosta Housing Task Force, organized  
18 the 3rd District Community Association, and served as vice president of the  
19 Valdosta-Lowndes Chapter of Habitat for Humanity; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Vickers has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades,  
21 including the Humanitarian Award from the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi  
22 Fraternity, Appreciation Award and Macedonia Image Award from Macedonia First Baptist

23 Church, Humanitarian Award from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Dr. Martin Luther King,  
24 Jr., Commemoration Association, and Award for Exemplary Community Service from the  
25 100 Black Men of Valdosta; and

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

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
29 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the overpass bridge on State Route 38/U.S. 221 in  
30 Lowndes County is dedicated as the Joseph "Sonny" Vickers Overpass.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
32 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Joseph "Sonny" Vickers  
33 Overpass.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Joseph "Sonny"  
36 Alexander Vickers and to the Department of Transportation.