

## House Resolution 136

By: Representative Greene of the 151<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mr. Thomas Morton Fort, Jr., and dedicating a bridge in his memory;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas Morton Fort, Jr., was born on February 1, 1923, in Vienna,  
4 Georgia, the beloved son of Gladys Davis Fort and Thomas Morton Fort, Sr., and owned and  
5 operated Fort Oil Co., Inc., in Lumpkin, Georgia, until his retirement in 1989; and

6 WHEREAS, a graduate of Lumpkin High School, Mr. Fort attended North Georgia College  
7 before volunteering to serve as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
8 States Army Air Corps during World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Fort was serving as a B-17 pilot based in Foggia, Italy, when his plane was  
10 shot down on June 16, 1944, during a mission over Vienna and he was captured in  
11 Yugoslavia; and

12 WHEREAS, this courageous and selfless American hero spent 11 months in prisoner of war  
13 camps in Poland and Germany; and

14 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Fort was a member of Lumpkin United  
15 Methodist Church and its administrative board; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Fort's leadership and guidance were instrumental to numerous  
17 organizations, including the Dawson Camp of Gideons International, Georgia Department  
18 of Ex-Prisoners of War, Valley Chapter of Ex-Prisoners of War, Andrew College Board of  
19 Trustees, and Board of Directors for Farmers State Bank; and

20 WHEREAS, he was a 50 year member of both the Cross Lodge #173 F&AM and the  
21 Lumpkin Lions Club; and

22 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and  
23 contributions of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by  
24 dedicating a bridge in his honor.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
26 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge on State Route 1 southbound over Hod  
27 Chod-Kee Creek in Stewart County is dedicated as the Thomas Morton Fort, Jr., Memorial  
28 Bridge.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
30 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Thomas Morton Fort, Jr.,  
31 Memorial Bridge.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
33 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
34 family of Thomas Morton Fort, Jr., and to the Department of Transportation.