

## House Resolution 896

By: Representatives Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, and Gordon of the 163<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the life of Mr. James "Jimmy" Allen Petrea and dedicating a bridge in his  
2 honor; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia celebrates the life and service of one of its finest citizens,  
4 Mr. James "Jimmy" Allen Petrea; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Petrea was born in Savannah, Georgia, the beloved son of Thelma Royal  
6 and Jessie Lewis Petrea; and

7 WHEREAS, he enlisted to serve as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the  
8 United States Navy in 1964 and joined the crew of the *USS Newport News CA 148* Heavy  
9 Cruiser in support of the Operation Sea Dragon and the 1st Marine Division. The mission  
10 was naval shore bombardment along the Ho Chi Minh trail as well as the interception and  
11 destruction of waterborne craft; and

12 WHEREAS, after three years of service in Vietnam and earning the rank of Engineman E5  
13 Petty Officer Second Class, he was honorably discharged, returned home to Savannah, and  
14 joined the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad as a machinist; and

15 WHEREAS, he was elected mayor of Thunderbolt in 1981 and was reelected for multiple  
16 terms until he resigned on December 31, 2005, after over a quarter-century of service to the  
17 town of Thunderbolt and the Coastal Empire; and

18 WHEREAS, during his 24 years as mayor, Mr. Petrea was highly regarded by the citizens  
19 of his community and state and local government officials as a person of unquestioned  
20 integrity and dedication to his community; and

21 WHEREAS, he was active in various veterans and civic organizations including the  
22 American Legion posts 184 and 26, VFW Post 4392, the Chatham Veteran's Council, the  
23 Lions Club, and Masonic Lodge 693; and

24 WHEREAS, Thunderbolt experienced significant growth under Mayor Petrea's leadership  
25 during which he played a key role in the commercial development of the riverfront and the  
26 opening of the current Wilmington River bridge; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Petrea exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine  
28 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties, and it is abundantly fitting and  
29 proper that this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by  
30 dedicating a bridge in his honor.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
32 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the bridge at Wilmington River on State Route 26/U.S. 80  
33 in Chatham County is dedicated as the James "Jimmy" A. Petrea Bridge.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
35 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the James "Jimmy" A. Petrea  
36 Bridge.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
39 Mr. James "Jimmy" Allen Petrea and to the Department of Transportation.