

House Bill 998

By: Representatives Irvin of the 45th, Wilkinson of the 43rd, Massey of the 86th, Bridges of the 9th, Byrd of the 170th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to create a "911 Heroes Appreciation Day"; to provide
3 legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and rescue
6 workers perform perilous jobs everyday in safeguarding our communities; and

7 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and rescue
8 workers voluntarily and routinely place themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and
9 property of our citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, the selfless devotion to duty of law enforcement
11 officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and rescue workers in New York City led to the
12 tragic death of several hundred of their ranks in the terrorist destruction of the World Trade
13 Center; and

14 WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency
15 personnel, and rescue workers personally saved the lives of thousands of people in and
16 around the World Trade Center; and

17 WHEREAS, their example has raised the profile and increased the public awareness and
18 appreciation of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and rescue
19 workers nationwide and indeed worldwide; and

20 WHEREAS, it is important that a day be set aside to honor the uncommon bravery and
21 courage exhibited everyday by law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency personnel,

1 and rescue workers and to express our appreciation and gratitude for their uncompromising
2 devotion to duty to the public they serve.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 GEORGIA:

5 **SECTION 1.**

6 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
7 observances, is amended by adding a new Code Section 1-4-15 to read as follows:

8 "1-4-15.

9 The day of September 11 of each year is designated and shall be observed as '911 Heroes
10 Appreciation Day' in Georgia. The citizens of Georgia are encouraged to observe the day
11 by reflecting upon the courage shown and the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers,
12 firefighters, emergency personnel, and rescue workers and by expressing their appreciation
13 and honoring all law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and rescue
14 workers on that date."

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 The General Assembly finds that the recognition and appreciation of the courage and
17 sacrifices of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and rescue workers
18 should be a nationwide event and calls upon the Congress of the United States to enact a
19 similar day of observance by creating a national "911 Heroes Appreciation Day." Upon this
20 Act becoming law, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this Act
21 to all members of the Georgia congressional delegation.

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
24 without such approval.

25 **SECTION 4.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.