

House Resolution 23

By: Representatives Day of the 126th, Stephens of the 123rd, Cooper of the 30th and Lunsford of the 85th, Post 2

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to allow children of POST
2 certified law enforcement officers or of firefighters who have died while carrying out their
3 duties to attend a state college or university tuition free in order to obtain an undergraduate
4 degree; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers and firefighters serve and protect our society so that
6 all of the citizens of this state and country can live safe and free; and

7 WHEREAS, in carrying out their duties as law enforcement officers and firefighters these
8 men and women take substantial risks, jeopardizing their safety and the future of their
9 children; and

10 WHEREAS, the strength of any democratic society lies in the education, enlightenment, and
11 participation of its citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, the continuity and vitality of any democratic society lies in the informed
13 participation on many levels of its citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, many national studies have shown that the greater an individual's level of
15 education, the greater their participation in the democratic process from volunteerism to
16 voting to holding elected office; and

17 WHEREAS, such participation dramatically increases with education, as the National Center
18 for Education Statistics has documented in its analysis of the 1992 U.S. presidential election,
19 where it found that voting rates for those with less than a high school diploma were 27
20 percent, while voting rates for those with four or more years of college were 78.5 percent;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, the University System of Georgia, with its 34 individual campuses, various
2 centers, more than 200,000 students and 30,000 employees, is ideally suited to help promote
3 the goals, duties, and responsibilities of good citizenship to the people of the State of
4 Georgia.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
6 this body urges the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to implement a
7 system to allow children of deceased POST certified law enforcement officers or of
8 firefighters who have died in the line of duty to attend a state college or university tuition
9 free in order to obtain an undergraduate degree and that any course offered under such
10 system shall be subject to availability.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Board of Regents of the
13 University System of Georgia.