

House Resolution 756

By: Representatives Snow of the 1st, Reece of the 11th, Jenkins of the 93rd, Coleman of the 118th, and Boggs of the 145th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Gary W. McConnell; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Gary W. McConnell has served with the utmost ability as Director of the
3 Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) since January, 1991, and has earned a
4 reputation for excellence as the state coordinator of emergency response efforts; and

5 WHEREAS, he began his career in law enforcement in 1965 as a deputy to his father, Sheriff
6 John Frank McConnell of Chattooga County, and following his sudden death Gary served
7 as the sheriff for more than two decades and was past president of the Georgia Sheriff's
8 Association before he was appointed to GEMA; and

9 WHEREAS, under his leadership, Georgia created a Severe Storms Research Center,
10 expanded the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio
11 network throughout the state, acquired a mobile communications vehicle, and established
12 training and standards for the 911 service and for private search and rescue dog teams; and

13 WHEREAS, he was Chief of Staff for the State Olympic Law Enforcement Command and
14 coordinated 29 state agencies for the 1996 Summer Olympics, was cochairman of the
15 National Emergency Management Association's Terrorism Committee, a member of
16 Georgia's Homeland Security Task Force, and his dedicated public service has been highly
17 valued.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body recognize and commend Gary W. McConnell for his diligence and
20 leadership as the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and
21 convey to him their sincere appreciation of his outstanding public service and best wishes.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Gary W. McConnell.