

Senate Resolution 179

By: Senator Hill of the 4th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Colonel William "Bill" Hitchens, Jr.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, on January 9, 2003, Governor-elect Sonny Perdue appointed Colonel William
3 "Bill" Hitchens to become the first Director of the Georgia Office of Homeland Security; and

4 WHEREAS, Colonel Hitchens's career spans more than 35 years of government service in
5 the military and state law enforcement; and

6 WHEREAS, he served four years in the Marine Corps, which included a 13 month stint in
7 Vietnam and served 28 years on the Georgia State Patrol; and

8 WHEREAS, throughout most of his career with the Georgia State Patrol, Colonel Hitchens
9 maintained a parallel career with the Coast Guard Reserve from which he retired in 2000
10 with the rank of Commander (O-5); and

11 WHEREAS, in May, 2000, via an Executive Order by the Governor, Colonel Hitchens was
12 named Executive Commander of the G-8 Public Safety Command; and

13 WHEREAS, he was placed in charge of all state efforts to coordinate law enforcement and
14 public safety operations for the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit held June 8-10, 2004, on Sea
15 Island, Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, coordinated by Colonel Hitchens, the state effort included approximately
17 10,000 public safety and Georgia National Guard personnel from around the state and was
18 by all accounts an unprecedented success; and

19 WHEREAS, Georgia's G-8 Summit has been established as the model and standard for such
20 events in years to come as a direct result of the remarkable leadership of Colonel Hitchens;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, on January 4, 2005, Colonel William "Bill" Hitchens, Jr., was appointed by
2 Governor Perdue as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety; and

3 WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding leadership, The Peace Officers Association of
4 Georgia, Inc., presented Colonel Hitchens with the 2004 Arthur Hutchins Meritorious
5 Service Award; and

6 WHEREAS, Colonel Hitchens has been married to his wife Norma for 35 years and they
7 have four children and five grandchildren.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
9 honor and commend Colonel William "Bill" Hitchens, Commissioner of the Georgia
10 Department of Public Safety, and express their gratitude for his exemplary service to the
11 State of Georgia.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
13 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Colonel William "Bill" Hitchens.