

House Resolution 1290

By: Representatives Barnard of the 166th, Day of the 163rd, Hill of the 21st, Scheid of the 22nd, and Byrd of the 20th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Deputy Patrick Neal on winning the Peace Officer of the Year Award for
2 Valor; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on August 10, 2004, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Patrick Neal's
4 actions demonstrated heroic character, courage, and dedication to his job; and

5 WHEREAS, on that day, Deputy Neal, while attempting to deliver felony warrants to a man
6 wanted for first degree forgery and probation violations in Woodstock, found himself in the
7 midst of a confrontation for which he could not have prepared himself; and

8 WHEREAS, while waiting for back-up to arrive, Deputy Neal believed the suspect
9 recognized his presence and was about to attempt to flee on foot, and he maneuvered his
10 patrol car in front of the truck; and

11 WHEREAS, the suspect reached into the truck arming himself with a .45 caliber
12 semiautomatic pistol forcing Deputy Neal to draw his own weapon; and

13 WHEREAS, after the suspect shot him in the face, knocking him to the ground, Deputy Neal,
14 demonstrating incredible fortitude, managed to return fire and get to his feet to go to cover;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, within one minute, some 22 rounds were exchanged, with only 15 feet
17 separating the two men; and

18 WHEREAS, in addition to the wound to his face, Deputy Neal received three shots to the
19 chest, all of which were thankfully stopped by his ballistic vest, and suffered a wound to his
20 leg resulting in his lower leg shattering; and

1 WHEREAS, despite these serious injuries, Deputy Neal held his ground against the suspect's
2 assault and ultimately fatally wounded the suspect; and

3 WHEREAS, in honor of his incredible execution of his duties under fire and unique bravery,
4 Deputy Neal has been awarded the Peace Officer of the Year Award for Valor by the Peace
5 Officers Association of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, all Georgians owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for the courageous and noble
7 service of this outstanding officer.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body join in commending Deputy Patrick Neal on being awarded the
10 Peace Officer of the Year Award for Valor and thank him for his heroic service to the people
11 of Georgia.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
13 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Deputy Patrick Neal.