

## House Resolution 797

By: Representatives Drenner of the 86<sup>th</sup>, Henson of the 87<sup>th</sup>, and Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Clarkston International Chaplains Corps; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Clarkston Georgia Police Department established Georgia's first  
4 international chaplains corps in March 26, 2006, and since that time the corps has grown to  
5 more than 14 pastor members; and

6 WHEREAS, the creation of this valuable group was inspired by a tragic incident in Clarkston  
7 involving a fire in an apartment complex where police officers were unable to communicate  
8 with or console victims because the victims and many of their family members could not  
9 speak English; and

10 WHEREAS, Clarkston's Police Chief, Tony Scipio, was deeply moved by this tragic event,  
11 and this caring leader was determined to overcome the cultural differences and language  
12 barriers between his officers and the migrant residents in the Clarkston community; and

13 WHEREAS, the chaplains who make up the corps are men and women from various  
14 backgrounds and religious faiths who offer their assistance around the clock, 24-7, giving  
15 tremendous comfort to those at a time when they are most in need of comforting, and these  
16 services are provided by such chaplains often at great personal sacrifice to themselves and  
17 their families; and

18 WHEREAS, the City of Clarkston is one of the most diverse cities in Georgia, and these  
19 devoted chaplain volunteers are able to provide loving comfort to many in their time of great  
20 despair and fear; and

21 WHEREAS, the City of Clarkston has lived up to its motto and is truly a "small town with  
22 a big heart"; and

1 WHEREAS, currently the Clarkston International Chaplains Corps members include Chief  
2 Raleigh Rucker, Sr., Assistant Chief Robert C. White, Jr., Chaplain Shonda Jones, Chaplain  
3 Mathew Koshy, Chaplain Calvin Otis Adams, Jr., Chaplain Leoncio Romero, Chaplain Peter  
4 Nehsahn, Chaplain Molley Cooper, Chaplain Latonya Rucker, Chaplain Freddie V. Aquino,  
5 Chaplain Johnny Mincey, Chaplain Phil Kitchens, and Chaplain Karl D. Moore; and

6 WHEREAS, these chaplains positively impact Clarkston police officers and the citizens of  
7 their community, thereby contributing to the safety and emotional well-being of our state,  
8 and it is only fitting and proper that their valuable services be recognized.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
10 the members of this body join in recognizing the Clarkston International Chaplains Corps for  
11 their service to Georgia and commend them for their personal sacrifice, commitment, and  
12 their untiring dedication to the citizens of this state.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
14 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Police Chief Tony Scipio, the  
15 Clarkston International Chaplains Corp, and the Mayor of the City of Clarkston.