

## House Resolution 1761

By: Representatives Maxwell of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup>, Keen of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Meadows of the 5<sup>th</sup>, Loudermilk of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring and commending Representative Ben Bridges; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Representative Ben Bridges will retire at the end of this year after serving the  
3 citizens of White and Habersham Counties for 12 years in the General Assembly; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born in Madison County and graduated from Commerce High School  
5 in 1959 and barber college in Gainesville in 1960, after which he operated a barbershop in  
6 Homer; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he joined the Georgia State Patrol as a driver's license examiner in 1966 and  
8 was soon promoted to trooper and graduated from Georgia's 29th trooper school, and he  
9 patrolled the northwest Georgia area and served on a state-wide DUI task force for many  
10 years, rising to the rank of corporal; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in 1976, Corporal Bridges was assigned to the staff of then Lieutenant Governor  
12 Zell Miller, where for nine years he provided security and served as liaison between the  
13 Lieutenant Governor's office and capitol police and other law enforcement agencies  
14 throughout the state, rising first to the rank of sergeant and then lieutenant and also attending  
15 Secret Service School in Washington, D.C.; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he was promoted to the rank of captain in 1985 and served as the commander  
17 of Troop B in northeast Georgia, supervising five patrol stations in a 21 county area, and he  
18 authored safety articles which were published monthly in over 28 newspapers in addition to  
19 making personal appearances on radio and television stations; and
- 20 WHEREAS, in 1976, Captain Bridges was awarded the Georgia Peace Officer Association's  
21 "Peace Officer of the Year" award, having been chosen by his peers from among 10,000  
22 members, and he was credited with saving four lives and was awarded proclamations for

1 heroism from the Governor's Office, the Georgia House of Representatives, and the Georgia  
2 Senate; and

3 WHEREAS, he retired from the state patrol in 1995 after 30 years of distinguished service  
4 and was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives beginning in January, 1997,  
5 becoming the first Republican elected from Habersham County and the second from White  
6 County; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Bridges has had a distinguished career in the House of  
8 Representatives, serving as chairman of the House Committee on Retirement and serving as  
9 a member of House committees on Banks and Banking; Energy, Utilities, and  
10 Telecommunications; and Rules, and it can honestly be said that he honored his constituents'  
11 wishes with every vote he cast; and

12 WHEREAS, a visitor to his office will notice the open scriptures in a prominent place on his  
13 desk, a reminder that his public and private lives have been guided by a Higher Power; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Bridges and his lovely wife, Jeanie, have five children, 11  
15 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, and they worship at the First Baptist Church in  
16 Helen; and

17 WHEREAS, after 49 years of distinguished public service, Representative Ben Bridges will  
18 retire to enjoy the results of a life well lived, and the members of this body do honor and  
19 commend him and wish him every happiness in the future.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
21 the members of this body honor and commend Representative Ben Bridges for his many  
22 years of excellent public service and wish him all happiness in his retirement years.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
24 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Representative Ben Bridges.