

House Resolution 1790

By: Representatives McKillip of the 115th, Heard of the 114th, Smith of the 113th, and Benfield of the 85th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Judge Kent Lawrence for his exemplary service to the citizens
2 of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Judge Kent Lawrence of Athens-Clarke County created the state's first DUI and
4 drug court in February, 2001, for high-risk drivers prone to repeat offenses for driving under
5 the influence of drugs or alcohol; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Lawrence took the initiative to create the impaired driving program to
7 reduce recidivism rates for DUI offenders, and as a result of his efforts, the recidivism rate
8 for graduates of his program is a minute 1.8 percent; and

9 WHEREAS, at 12 months before graduation, research has shown that participants in this
10 program are three times less likely to be arrested on a DUI charge; at 24 months prior to
11 graduation, participants are four times less likely to be arrested on a DUI charge; and as a
12 whole, participants are 20 percent less likely to be arrested for a new felony offense; and

13 WHEREAS, not only has Judge Lawrence improved the safety of Athens-Clarke County
14 drivers, he has assisted in training 11 other DUI courts throughout Georgia, and those
15 programs have similarly positive results; and

16 WHEREAS, the DUI court was recently recognized on February 29, 2008, as one of only
17 four national academy courts certified by the National Highway Traffic Safety
18 Administration and the National Drug Court Institute to conduct training programs for courts
19 across the country planning to implement a DUI accountability court program; and

20 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper for this body to recognize with particularity
21 the outstanding accomplishments of this extraordinary individual.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body join to recognize Judge Kent Lawrence and commend him for his
3 outstanding efforts to eliminate DUI recidivism rates.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
5 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Judge Kent Lawrence.