

Senate Resolution 1107

By: Senators Douglas of the 17th, Jones of the 10th and Buckner of the 44th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Police Chief Russell Abernathy on the occasion of his
2 retirement; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Police Chief Russell Abernathy is highly regarded by the citizens of this state
4 and by local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to the
5 sound principles of law enforcement; and

6 WHEREAS, Chief Abernathy has diligently and conscientiously devoted his time, talents,
7 and energy to law enforcement for an incredible 42 years, beginning with 30 years with the
8 Georgia State Patrol, then as a consultant with the Carl Vinson Institute at the University of
9 Georgia, and as Henry County Chief of Police since 2004; and

10 WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, Chief Abernathy has been instrumental in
11 transforming the Henry County Police Department from a rural department into the modern,
12 professional organization it is today; and

13 WHEREAS, Chief Abernathy greatly improved the lives of Henry County residents with the
14 development of the Criminal Apprehension and Gang Enforcement Unit in 2005, a system
15 for determining when and where certain crimes are likely to occur and greatly contributing
16 to the county's distinction as maintaining one of the lowest crime indexes in the Metropolitan
17 Atlanta area; and

18 WHEREAS, during his tenure as police chief, Chief Abernathy established a K-9 Drug
19 Interdiction Unit and a chaplaincy program in which ten clergy members counsel police
20 officers and their families and has been useful for officers when dealing with domestic cases;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Chief Abernathy also instituted a Citizen's Police Academy, a women's
23 self-defense class, and a promotional process for police officers that establishes clear, career
24 path opportunities for officers; and

25 WHEREAS, he has exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine
26 leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his duties, and his efficient and effective
27 commitment to excellence has been continually recognized by his peers; and

28 WHEREAS, Chief Abernathy's vision and leadership will be sorely missed upon his
29 retirement, as he plans to return to Tennessee with his wife, Cheryl, in order to be closer to
30 his two daughters, his stepdaughter, and his 13 grandchildren.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 commend the selfless dedication exhibited by Police Chief Russell Abernathy in carrying out
33 the difficult duties of his vocation for over four decades, extend to him their utmost
34 appreciation for having so purely and truly defined for others the meaning of public servant,
35 and congratulate him on the grand occasion of his retirement.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Police Chief Russell Abernathy.