

House Resolution 1911

By: Representatives Day of the 163rd, Jackson of the 142nd, Neal of the 1st, Collins of the 27th, Black of the 174th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Colonel William "Bill" Hitchens, Jr., for his many
2 contributions to our state and national security; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the impressive public safety career of Colonel William "Bill" Hitchens, Jr.,
4 spans more than 45 years of public safety service, including four years in the Marine Corps,
5 a 13 month stint in Vietnam, 28 years on the Georgia State Patrol, and more than five years
6 as the executive head of the Georgia Department of Public Safety; and

7 WHEREAS, throughout most of his career with the Georgia State Patrol, Colonel Hitchens
8 maintained a parallel career with the Coast Guard Reserve, from which he retired in 2000
9 with the rank of Commander (0-5); and

10 WHEREAS, after retiring from the Georgia State Patrol, he worked for three years with the
11 Governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council as a law enforcement consultant; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel Hitchens was appointed by Governor-elect Sonny Perdue on January
13 9, 2003, as the first director of the Georgia Office of Homeland Security; and

14 WHEREAS, the Georgia Board of Public Safety unanimously approved Colonel Hitchens'
15 appointment by Governor Perdue as the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public
16 Safety, effective on December 16, 2004; and

17 WHEREAS, in May, 2000, Colonel Hitchens was named executive commander of the G-8
18 Public Safety Command, and he was placed in charge of all state efforts to coordinate law
19 enforcement and public safety operations for the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit held on June
20 8-10, 2004, on Sea Island, Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, coordinated by Colonel Hitchens, the state G-8 operations included
22 approximately 10,000 public safety and Georgia National Guard personnel from around the
23 state and was by all accounts an unprecedented success; and

24 WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding leadership, the Peace Officers Association of
25 Georgia, Inc., presented Colonel Hitchens with the 2004 Arthur Hutchins Meritorious
26 Service Award; and

27 WHEREAS, Colonel Hitchens is highly regarded for his integrity, dedication, and expertise
28 by not only the citizens and law enforcement officers of Georgia but also by prominent
29 national and international public safety leaders around the world.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body honor and commend Colonel William "Bill" Hitchens, Jr.,
32 commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety, and express their gratitude for his
33 many contributions to our state and national security.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Colonel William "Bill"
36 Hitchens, Jr.