Senate Resolution 1409

By: Senators James of the 35th, Orrock of the 36th, Tate of the 38th, Butler of the 55th, Davis of the 22nd and others

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing and commending Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport's Aviation General Manager Benjamin R. DeCosta on the occasion of his retirement; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin R. DeCosta has provided unparalleled leadership and vision to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport as Aviation General Manager; and

WHEREAS, a native of New York, Mr. DeCosta earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Queens College and a law degree from New York Law School and holds designation from the American Association of Airport Employees as an Accredited Airport Executive; and

WHEREAS, Mr. DeCosta has diligently and conscientiously devoted his time, talents, and energy to the airport as general manager since 1998, providing quality customer service and impeccable security to visitors of one of the busiest international airports in the world; and

WHEREAS, as general manager, Mr. DeCosta is in charge of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport's over $6 billion capital improvement program, which upgraded the existing central passenger terminal complex and adds a new runway, terminal, rental car center, and south gate complex; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. DeCosta and his team celebrated the first anniversary of the new fifth runway at the airport, which has been labeled the most important runway in America and has significantly contributed to a substantial decrease in delays and saves the airlines millions of dollars every week; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. DeCosta's leadership and guidance the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport remains Georgia's crown jewel, employing more than 56,000 employees and producing a financial impact of $23.5 billion for the State of Georgia; and
WHEREAS, Mr. DeCosta is active in numerous professional organizations, including the American Association of Airport Employees and the Airports Council International; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades throughout his prestigious career such as Best Airport Director of the Year Award in 2007 from *Airport Review News*; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as general manager the airport has been named the most efficient major airport in the world by the Air Transport Research Society, the Executive Travelers' Best Large U.S. Airport by American Express, and the Best Very Large Airport in Overall Passenger Satisfaction by the International Air Transport Association; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body recognize Mr. Benjamin R. DeCosta for his effective, efficient, and exemplary service to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and the State of Georgia, congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement as general manager, and extend to him best wishes for future health and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Benjamin R. DeCosta.