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Senate Resolution 261

By: Senators Murphy of the 27th, Mullis of the 53rd, Shafer of the 48th, Hamrick of the 30th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vernon Keenan; and
- 2 for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, born in Waycross, Georgia, Director Vernon Keenan graduated from Waycross
- 4 High School, earned a bachelor's degree from Valdosta State University and a master's
- 5 degree in public administration from the Law Enforcement Command College in Columbus,
- 6 and is a graduate of the 117th session of the FBI National Academy; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Director Keenan's law enforcement career began with the DeKalb County
- 8 Police Department in 1972, and in 1973 he joined the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)
- 9 as a Special Agent assigned to Northwest Georgia; and
- 10 WHEREAS, before his appointment as Director of the GBI by Governor Sonny Perdue in
- 11 January 2003, Director Keenan served in many capacities with the GBI, including in the
- 12 Missing and Murdered Children Investigation unit of Atlanta, squad commander of the state
- 13 Auto Theft Squad, Special Agent in Charge of the Calhoun Regional Office, Inspector of the
- seven North Georgia regional offices, the Metro Fugitive Squad, the Special Investigations
- 15 Unit/Financial Investigations Squad, and Deputy Director of the Investigative Division; and
- 16 WHEREAS, during the 1996 Olympic Games, Director Keenan was one of several officials
- 17 in charge of the State Law Enforcement Command Center and served with the State
- 18 Homeland Security Central Command responsible for public safety, facilitation of law
- 19 enforcement, and coordination of state personnel during the G-8 Summit at Sea Island,
- 20 Georgia, in 2004; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Director Keenan was instrumental in the formation of the Georgia Crisis
- 22 Intervention Team program, which has provided training to over 2,000 Georgia officers in
- 23 over 150 law enforcement agencies and for which he was recognized by the International
- 24 Association of Chiefs of Police; and

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25 WHEREAS, during his illustrious career, Director Keenan has served on the Investigation

- 26 Operations Committee and the Dangerous Drugs and Narcotics Committee for the
- 27 International Association of Chiefs of Police, served on the Advisory Board for the Georgia
- 28 International Law Enforcement Exchange Program, and participated in law enforcement
- 29 leadership programs in Israel, China, Spain, Germany, and the United Kingdom; and
- 30 WHEREAS, for his many contributions to the GBI, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of
- 31 Police, and state law enforcement, Director Keenan was named the 2008 Outstanding Police
- 32 Chief of the Year; and
- WHEREAS, he has been united in love and marriage since 1972 to Joan Thomas Keenan and
- 34 the couple has been blessed with two remarkable sons, Mack and Jackson; and
- 35 WHEREAS, Director Keenan is highly regarded by the citizens of his community and by
- 36 state and local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to
- 37 the administration of justice and sound principles of law enforcement.
- 38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
- 39 recognize Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vernon Keenan, commend him for his
- 40 exemplary career, and wish him the best for the future.
- 41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
- 42 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Director Vernon Keenan.