

House Resolution 652

By: Representatives Day of the 163rd, Talton of the 145th, Collins of the 27th, Frazier of the 123rd, Horne of the 71st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Business Executives for National Security (BENS) and the
2 Georgia Business Force and inviting them to appear before the House of Representatives;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in October, 2003, BENS accepted the challenge of the Governor of the State
5 of Georgia to develop an effective public-private partnership for homeland security and
6 established, among its members in the southeast region, a program entitled the Georgia
7 Business Force; and

8 WHEREAS, working closely with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA)
9 and the Georgia Division of Public Health, the Georgia Business Force has effectively
10 brought private sector perspectives and resources to bear on matters of homeland security
11 and disaster preparedness and resilience; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Business Force and its public sector partners have demonstrated
13 the great potential for public-private collaboration; and

14 WHEREAS, they have formed the Business Operations Center within GEMA to create an
15 operational presence in the State Operations Center, wherein the Georgia Business Force and
16 affiliated Business Operations Center member companies and associations actively
17 participated in training, exercises, and six mobilizations in response to actual emergencies;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Georgia Business Force published guidelines for business response to a
20 bioterrorist attack, led regional exercises with a Strategic National Stockpile scenario, and
21 constructively introduced a private sector perspective to numerous disaster planning
22 initiatives; and

23 WHEREAS, the efforts of the Georgia Business Force and members of BENS southeast
24 region over the past five years are recognized and appreciated by the people of the State of
25 Georgia, and their contributions to the readiness of the state to respond to threats and
26 disasters has been significant; and

27 WHEREAS, the Georgia Business Force members currently include: Alston & Bird LLP,
28 Bank of America, the Coca-Cola Company, Colonial Pipeline Company, CSX
29 Transportation, DataPath, Inc., Deloitte and Touché, LLP, EmployBridge, Global Payments,
30 Inc., Holder Construction Company, The Home Depot, Manhattan Associates, North
31 Highland Company, Oldcastle Architectural, Inc., PODS Atlanta, Presidio, Inc., Southern
32 Company, SunTrust Banks, and the White Oak Group, Inc.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 this body recognizes and commends BENS and the Georgia Business Force for their
35 outstanding service to the citizens of the State of Georgia.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of BENS and the Georgia Business Force are
37 invited to appear before this body on a date and at a time designated by the Speaker of the
38 House of Representatives for the purpose of being recognized by the House of
39 Representatives.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Mr. Harrison Farris, Georgia
42 Business Force, and BENS.