

## House Resolution 658

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

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Business Executives for National Security (BENS) and the  
2 Georgia Business Force; and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, the efforts of the Georgia Business Force and members of BENS southeast  
23 region over the past five years are recognized and appreciated by the people of the State of

24 Georgia, and their contributions to the readiness of the state to respond to threats and  
25 disasters has been significant; and

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

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

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