

## House Resolution 255

By: Representatives Taylor of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Jacobs of the 80<sup>th</sup>, Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, Harrell of the 106<sup>th</sup>, Riley of the 50<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Reverend Monsignor R. Donald Kiernan on the occasion of his retirement and
- 2 inviting him to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.
  
- 3 WHEREAS, Reverend Monsignor R. Donald Kiernan has served as pastor and spiritual
- 4 leader of All Saints Catholic Church for the past 25 years, and his career virtually spans the
- 5 spread of Catholicism in north Georgia, serving in 11 parishes from Savannah to Gainesville
- 6 and watching the Catholic population double and re-double; and
  
- 7 WHEREAS, born in Taunton, Massachusetts, Reverend Monsignor Kiernan graduated from
- 8 Providence College and Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland, was ordained a priest in
- 9 1949, was made a Prelate of Honor by Pope Paul VI in 1969, and was named a Prothonotary
- 10 Apostolic in 1979 by Pope John Paul I; and
  
- 11 WHEREAS, Reverend Monsignor Kiernan served as pastor of St. Jude's Church in Sandy
- 12 Springs for ten years, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Atlanta for eight years, St.
- 13 Anthony's Church in West End for four years, St. Bernadette's Church in Cedartown for a
- 14 year and a half, and St. Michael's Church in Gainesville for six years; and
  
- 15 WHEREAS, his special ministry has been to Georgia's law enforcement, founding the
- 16 Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police in 1962 and serving as its director and chaplain for
- 17 20 years; and
  
- 18 WHEREAS, Reverend Monsignor Kiernan has served as chaplain of the International
- 19 Association of Chiefs of Police, Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the
- 20 DeKalb County Police Department and the Atlanta offices of the ATF and the FBI; and
  
- 21 WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including the
- 22 Cardinal McCloskey Award for outstanding alumnus of Mount St. Mary's Seminary and
- 23 being named Vicar General for Pastoral Ministries by Archbishop John F. Donoghue; and

24 WHEREAS, whether the task is preparing a sermon, visiting the sick, counseling the  
25 troubled, baptizing a new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or  
26 humanitarian, Reverend Monsignor Kiernan serves as a shining example of God's righteous  
27 path; and

28 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by Reverend Monsignor Kiernan is  
29 a source of strength and direction for persons in all walks of life and from all economic  
30 strata; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message  
32 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for his innumerable good works rendered  
33 on behalf of persons in need.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body recognize the life and work of Reverend Monsignor R. Donald  
36 Kiernan, congratulate him upon his retirement, and invite him to be recognized by the House  
37 of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House of  
38 Representatives.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Monsignor R.  
41 Donald Kiernan.