

Senate Resolution 316

By: Senators Tolleson of the 20th, Grant of the 25th and Jackson of the 24th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the McDuffie/Warren County Forestry Unit on being named
2 the Georgia Forestry Commission 2010 Northern Unit of the Year; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the mission of the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) is "to provide
4 leadership, service, and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest
5 resources"; and

6 WHEREAS, one forestry unit is selected each year as the GFC's Northern Unit of the Year
7 based on various measures of accomplishments that are weighed and voted upon by the
8 GFC's Leadership; and

9 WHEREAS, the McDuffie/Warren County Forestry Unit's most notable achievements
10 include almost doubling their seedling sales compared to the previous year, managing
11 inopportune weather conditions by working weekends to serve landowners, installing 309
12 miles of firebreaks, assisting with over 1,100 acres of prescribed burning, and providing
13 forest management advice on over 1,650 acres; and

14 WHEREAS, unit professionals of the McDuffie/Warren Forestry Unit handled multiple
15 additional responsibilities including district radio programming, filling in as acting -assistant
16 district manager when needed, organizing community presentations, assisting on multiple
17 projects such as road maintenance at Spirit Creek Educational Forest, and hosting and
18 leading many District training programs; and

19 WHEREAS, in addition, the Forestry Unit maintained outstanding wildfire protection of
20 McDuffie County and Warren County's nearly 256,000 forested acres during a wildfire
21 season that resulted in the damage or loss in Georgia of over \$5.2 million worth of personal
22 property and threatened an additional \$249 million worth of personal property; and

23 WHEREAS, due to these outstanding accomplishments of the McDuffie/Warren County
24 Forestry Unit in the year 2010, the Unit was selected as the GFC's Northern Unit of the Year;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, the unit consists of dedicated GFC professional Rangers John Crawford, Chris
27 Cason, and David Cheely; Forester John Sunday; and Secretary/Dispatcher Laverne Davis
28 serving under the leadership of Chief Ranger Gene "Hal" Sharpe; and

29 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the McDuffie/Warren County Forestry Unit are a clear
30 indication of the dedication, teamwork of the individuals at the Unit, their ability to
31 overcome obstacles in order to accomplish the goals of the group, their complete devotion
32 to Georgia's citizens and their fellow GFC Professionals; and

33 WHEREAS, the McDuffie/Warren County Forestry Unit brings great pride to the citizens
34 of McDuffie and Warren counties, the Washington District, the GFC, and the entire State of
35 Georgia.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 commend the McDuffie/Warren County Forestry Unit for being named the 2010 Northern
38 Unit of the Year.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Chief Ranger Gene "Hal" Sharpe.