

Senate Resolution 478

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Tate of the 38th and Butler of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending New Americans Day; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, March, 2011, marks the third annual New Americans Day recognition in
3 Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, New Americans Day recognizes the ever expanding population of refugees who
5 have come to America to escape ethnic, religious, or political persecution; and
- 6 WHEREAS, many refugees face the fear of being tortured or murdered in their home country
7 and therefore have been invited to the United States to start a new life, safe and free from
8 persecution; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the Office of Refugee Resettlement data states that Georgia has resettled more
10 than 40,000 refugees since the 1980's with approximately 90 percent resettling in
11 metropolitan Atlanta; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Georgia is the ninth largest destination state for refugees to resettle and has
13 successfully created programs with the goal of integrating, welcoming, and easing the
14 assimilation process for refugees; and
- 15 WHEREAS, refugees have become naturalized citizens and permanent residents in Georgia
16 and contribute greatly to the Georgia economy as consumers and workers; and
- 17 WHEREAS, refugees and naturalized citizens support public education and contribute to our
18 state's diversity and our capitol city of Atlanta's recognition as an international city; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the members of this body welcome newly naturalized citizens to America and
20 their new home in the State of Georgia.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
22 acknowledge the importance of refugees and naturalized citizens to the State of Georgia and
23 recognize the third annual New Americans Day in Georgia.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
25 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to members of the public and the press.