

House Resolution 1526

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th, Taylor of the 173rd, Maddox of the 172nd, Powell of the 171st, Purcell of the 159th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Decatur County Forestry Unit on being named the Georgia
2 Forestry Commission 2011 Southern Unit of the Year and inviting them to be recognized by
3 the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

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

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

9 WHEREAS, the Decatur County Forestry Unit's most notable achievements include assisting
10 on 2,148 acres of prescribed burning, plowing over 1,136 miles of firebreaks, serving on
11 multiple incidents with 79 days of deployments throughout the record-breaking 2011 fire
12 season and the April 2011 tornadoes, leading eight building projects throughout the Flint
13 District, resulting in considerable savings to the Agency and State of Georgia, serving as an
14 integral part of Decatur County's Tree City USA program and Rural Fire Defense program,
15 coordinating with Decatur County Fire and Rescue to obtain a boat for wildfire suppression
16 around rivers and lakes, acquiring support from Decatur County for the mitigation specialist
17 position which provides a valuable service to the unit's operations, completing a Community
18 Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Decatur County which will be instrumental in
19 protecting local homes from wildfires, volunteering time to bring wildfire prevention
20 messages to county parades, and attending numerous training courses which will result in the
21 unit's ability to provide enhanced services to the citizens of Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, in addition to the above listed accomplishments, the Decatur County Forestry
23 Unit maintained outstanding wildfire protection of Decatur County's 188,865 forested acres
24 during a wildfire season that resulted in the damage or loss in Georgia of over \$19.8 million

25 worth of personal property and threatened an additional \$461.3 million worth of personal
26 property; and

27 WHEREAS, due to the outstanding accomplishments of the Decatur County Forestry Unit
28 in 2011, the unit was selected as Georgia Forestry Commission's Southern Unit of the Year;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, the forestry unit consists of dedicated GFC professionals First Ranger Van
31 Smith, First Ranger Bryan Cottles, First Ranger Johnny Barwick, and Mitigation Specialist
32 Tina Nix serving under the leadership of Chief Ranger Rodney Heard; and

33 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Decatur County Forestry Unit are a clear indication
34 of the dedication and teamwork present at the unit, the ability of the unit to establish and
35 maintain mutually beneficial relationships with local partners, and the consistently high level
36 of forestry services provided by the unit over the course of many years; and

37 WHEREAS, the Decatur County Forestry Unit brings great pride to the citizens of Decatur
38 County, the Flint District, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and the entire State of Georgia.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body commend the Decatur County Forestry Unit for being named the
41 2011 Southern Unit of the Year and invite the dedicated professionals of the Decatur County
42 Forestry Unit to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time designated
43 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Chief Ranger Rodney
46 Heard.