

House Resolution 467

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th and Harden of the 148th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit on being named the
2 Georgia Forestry Commission 2012 Southern Unit of the Year and inviting its members to
3 appear before 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 the Georgia Forestry Commission's
7 Southern Unit of the Year based on various measures of accomplishment that are weighed
8 and voted upon by the Georgia Forestry Commission's leadership; and

9 WHEREAS, the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit's most notable achievements include
10 assisting on 2,486 acres of prescribed burning, plowing 173 miles of firebreaks, harrowing
11 328 miles, issuing 1,031 permits from the unit for 16,259 acres, selling and delivering
12 342,383 seedlings, delivering 34 educational programs in the community, publishing articles
13 in the local paper, judging two FFA Forestry Field Day events, including the State
14 Competition, and receiving 217 hours of training in FY12 on safety, equipment operation,
15 and environmental issues; and

16 WHEREAS, the forestry unit also maintained outstanding wildlife protection of Bleckley and
17 Pulaski County's 163,765 forested acres, responding to 132 wildfires that burned a total of
18 336 acres with an average fire size of 2.55 acres, which is nearly half of the state average of
19 4.98 acres; and

20 WHEREAS, due to the outstanding accomplishments of the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit
21 in the year 2012, the unit was selected as the Georgia Forestry Commission's Southern Unit
22 of the Year; and

23 WHEREAS, the recognized forestry unit consists of dedicated GFC Professionals Ranger 1
24 Kerry Smith, Ranger 1 Joey Gross, and Ranger 1 Sean Sills, now Central Response Center
25 manager, serving under the leadership of Chief Ranger David Brown; and

26 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit are a clear
27 indication of the dedication and team work present at the unit, the ability of the unit to
28 establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with local partners, and the
29 consistently high level of forestry service provided by the unit over the course of many years.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body commend the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit for being named the
32 Georgia Forestry Commission 2012 Southern Unit of the Year and invite the dedicated
33 professionals of the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit to appear before the House of
34 Representatives on a date and time designated by the Speaker of the House of
35 Representatives.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Chief Ranger David Brown.