

## Senate Resolution 628

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Wilkinson of the 50th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Williams of the 19th, Loudermilk of the 14th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Boy Scouts of America on their continued success, and recognizing its  
2 continued commitment to strong moral values of its youth and adult members, volunteers,  
3 and leaders; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America, a volunteer organization, was incorporated by  
5 Chicago publisher William D. Boyce on February 8, 1910, after learning of the Scouting  
6 movement during a visit to London; and

7 WHEREAS, on June 21, 1910, a group of 34 national representatives met, developed eight  
8 organization plans, and opened a temporary national headquarters for the program in New  
9 York; and

10 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to teach America's youth  
11 patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values along with moral and ethical behavior;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America has and continues to live out its commitment to  
14 helping millions of youth succeed by providing support, friendship, and mentoring necessary  
15 to live a happy and fulfilling life; and

16 WHEREAS, by 1912, Boy Scouts were enrolled in every state, and in 1916, the United  
17 States Congress granted the Boy Scouts of America a federal charter; and

18 WHEREAS, each council requires a Scout to perform at least 12 hours of community service  
19 annually, totaling more than 30 million community service hours each year; and

20 WHEREAS, there have now been more than 112 million members of Scouting, and the  
21 organization presented the two millionth Eagle Scout award in 2009; and

22 WHEREAS, Scouting has produced many great American military, business, and political  
23 leaders, including United States Presidents and 11 of the 12 Apollo Astronauts who walked  
24 on the moon; and

25 WHEREAS, more than one million adult volunteer leaders selflessly serve young people in  
26 their communities through organizations chartered by the Boy Scouts of America, often  
27 neither receiving nor seeking the thanks of the public; and

28 WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America endeavors to develop United States citizens who are  
29 "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight"; have a high degree of self-reliance  
30 as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have a belief in and  
31 personal values based on God our creator; have the desire and skills to help others and  
32 understand the principles of the United States' social, economic, and governmental systems;  
33 take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; and are  
34 prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society; and

35 WHEREAS, over the last 100 years the Boy Scouts of America have weathered and endured  
36 world wars, economic recessions and depressions, severe cultural and family structural  
37 changes, and attacks against their strong stand for their values, primarily due to their strict  
38 adherence to a belief in and duty to God and country along with a commitment to be clean  
39 and morally straight; and

40 WHEREAS, a continued strict adherence to these principles will ensure the future success  
41 and growth of the Boy Scouts of America and the next generation of American leaders it will  
42 produce; and

43 WHEREAS, Scouting's founder, Lord Baden-Powell, in his farewell address to Scouting  
44 wrote: "Be prepared in this way - to live happy and die happy - stick to your Scout Promise  
45 (Scout Oath) always - even after you have ceased to be a boy - and God help you to do it."

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
47 commend the Boy Scouts of America program for improving the lives of countless young  
48 men and inspiring all Americans to be moral and upright citizens and to reverence God, and  
49 urge the Boy Scouts of America to maintain its current membership policy for the future of  
50 Scouting, its members, and its continued positive impact on America.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
52 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Boys Scouts of America program  
53 National Office and all Council Offices in Georgia.