

Senate Resolution 774

By: Senators Stone of the 23rd, Cowser of the 46th, Jackson of the 24th, Crosby of the 13th, Murphy of the 27th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Conservation Corporal Michael Crawley for dedicated service
2 to the citizens of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on March 29, 2013, while many Georgia citizens were beginning Easter
4 Weekend celebrations, conservation rangers from the Department of Natural Resources were
5 on vigilant patrol to protect those involved in outdoor activities; and

6 WHEREAS, at 10:30 P.M. Corporal Crawley received a call relating to four lost hunters on
7 the Ogeechee River at the Jefferson/Washington County line; taking the small amount of
8 information that the hunters were able to give him, Corporal Crawley, along with a private
9 citizen, was able to locate the hunters on the raging waters of the Ogeechee River; and

10 WHEREAS, wading over a mile through the rain swollen waters to the riverbank, Corporal
11 Crawley was able to make personal contact from across the river; and

12 WHEREAS, when the officer began his extraction plans, one of the hunters, fully clothed
13 with two firearms strapped to his back, entered the river, and panic overtook the hunter
14 immediately; and

15 WHEREAS, recognizing the dire situation and without regard for his own safety, Corporal
16 Crawley leapt into the river and struggled to gain control of the hunter; after a few harrowing
17 seconds, Corporal Crawley was able to gain control and brought the hunter safely to shore;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Corporal Crawley and the hunters still remained separated from the rescue party
20 on the opposite shoreline; guarding against hypothermia and panic, Corporal Crawley used
21 his survival training to build a fire to warm the hunters through the night, realizing that any
22 additional attempts at a night rescue were far too dangerous; and

23 WHEREAS, with the assistance from Sergeant Max Boswell, Sergeant Matt Garthright,
24 Corporal Ben Payne, RFC Leroy Ficklin, and RFC Jeff Billips, the hunters were brought to
25 safety the next morning after the overnight ordeal.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 commend Corporal Michael Crawley for his heroic efforts in rescuing four people from
28 eminent danger and hypothermia and one from drowning.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
30 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Corporal Michael Crawley.