

House Resolution 1308

By: Representatives Parrish of the 158th, Burns of the 159th, and Tankersley of the 160th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Conservation Corporal Michael Crawley for his dedication and service to the
2 citizens of Georgia and inviting him to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and
3 for other purposes.

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

7 WHEREAS, at 10:30 P.M., Corporal Crawley received a call relating to four lost hunters on
8 the Ogeechee River at the Jefferson/Washington County line; taking the small amount of
9 information that the hunters were able to give him, Corporal Crawley, along with a private
10 citizen, were able to locate the hunters on the raging waters of the Ogeechee River; wading
11 over a mile through the rain swollen waters to the river bank, Corporal Crawley was able to
12 make personal contact from across the river; and

13 WHEREAS, when the officer began his extraction plans, one of the hunters, fully clothed
14 with two firearms strapped to his back, entered the river; however, panic overtook the hunter
15 immediately; 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 and after a few
17 harrowing seconds, he was able to gain control and brought the hunter safely to shore; and

18 WHEREAS, although Corporal Crawley and the hunters still remained separated from the
19 rescue party on the opposite shoreline, the officer took control of the situation, guarding
20 against hypothermia and panic, and using his survival training to build a fire to warm the
21 hunters through the night while realizing that any additional attempts at a night rescue were
22 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body commend Conservation Corporal Michael Crawley for his heroic
28 efforts in rescuing four people from eminent danger and for his dedication and service to the
29 citizens of Georgia and invite him to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date
30 and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Corporal Michael Crawley.