

House Resolution 2028

By: Representatives Deffenbaugh of the 1st, Cheokas of the 138th, Ralston of the 7th, O'Neal of the 146th, Pak of the 108th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Honorable Jay Neal on the occasion of his retirement from the Georgia
2 House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Honorable Jay Neal was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives
4 in 2004 and served until being appointed by Governor Deal to serve as Executive Director
5 of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry, effective November 15, 2013;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, he served on the Children and Youth Committee, Economic Development and
8 Tourism Committee, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, Appropriations
9 Committee, Insurance Committee, and Juvenile Justice Committee; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Neal served as cochairman of the Legislative Behavioral Health
11 Caucus from 2010-2013 and chairman of the House Committee on State Properties from
12 2011-2013; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2011, Representative Neal authored House Bill 265, which established the
14 Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform for Georgians and has led to criminal justice
15 reform for adults and juveniles, and he has shared the story of criminal justice reform in
16 Georgia with numerous states and conferences over the last two years; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Neal was the leading advocate for addiction recovery in the
18 General Assembly from 2006 until his resignation and helped establish the annual Addiction
19 Recovery Awareness Day (ARAD) Rally at the Capitol; and

20 WHEREAS, the ARAD Rally draws hundreds of advocates from around this state and
21 continues to grow each year, demonstrating Representative Neal's ability to work across the
22 aisle and his courage to take on tough issues; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Neal joined Penfield Christian Homes, a six-week residential
24 treatment program, in 2009, serving as campus director of the North Campus until
25 November 1, 2013; and

26 WHEREAS, prior to his employment with Penfield, Representative Neal was a partner at
27 Weichert Realtors, First Choice and served for 25 years as a bivocational pastor; and

28 WHEREAS, Representative Neal is known for his community involvement, having served
29 on the founding boards of the Lookout Mountain Fellowship of Christian Athletes, SAGE
30 Resource Center, and YOBEL House and on the boards of the Walker County Chamber of
31 Commerce and Center for Hope; he was also one of the organizers of "Undivided," a
32 community ministry established to tear down the racial, economic, denominational, and
33 social walls that separated the LaFayette community, is a charter member of the Battlefield
34 Civitan Club in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and is a member of the LaFayette Optimist.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body commend the Honorable Jay Neal on the occasion of his retirement
37 from the Georgia House of Representatives and wish him many happy years to come.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Honorable Jay Neal.