

House Resolution 291

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th, Williams of the 119th, LaRiccia of the 169th, Roberts of the 155th, Shaw of the 176th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit upon being named the
2 Georgia Forestry Commission 2014 Southern Unit of the Year and inviting them to be
3 recognized by 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, one forestry unit is selected each year as Georgia Forestry Commission's
7 Southern Unit of the Year based on various measures of accomplishments that are
8 determined by members of the Georgia Forestry Commission's leadership; and

9 WHEREAS, the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit's most notable achievements include the
10 following: assisting on 2,050 acres of prescribed burning; plowing 631 miles of firebreaks
11 with 100 percent BMP implementation; assisting homeowners with over 88 home risk
12 assessments; completing renovations for both the Coffee and Atkinson offices as well as
13 buildings on the Dixon State Forest; having 100 percent participation in the Career
14 Development Increments program; and reading of 280 agricultural well meters by unit
15 personnel during the year; and

16 WHEREAS, the forestry unit maintained outstanding wildfire protection of Coffee and
17 Atkinson County's 382,892 forested acres and responded to 73 wildfires that burned a total
18 of 258 acres for an average fire size of 3.5 acres; and

19 WHEREAS, due to the outstanding accomplishments of the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit
20 in the year 2014, the unit was selected as Georgia Forestry Commission's Southern Unit of
21 the Year; and

22 WHEREAS, the recognized forestry unit consists of dedicated Georgia Forestry Commission
23 professionals Ranger Jimmy (Darwin) Corbitt, Ranger Derek Harper, Ranger Kevin Pittman,

24 Ranger Shawn Spikes, Ranger Trey Spivey, and Supplemental Firefighter 3 William Greene,
25 serving under the leadership of Chief Ranger/Forest Technician James Foster Smith, Jr.; and

26 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit are a clear indication
27 of the dedication and team work present in the unit, the ability of the unit to establish and
28 maintain mutually beneficial relationships with local partners, and the consistently high level
29 of forestry services provided by the unit over the course of many years; and

30 WHEREAS, the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit brings great pride to the citizens of Coffee
31 and Atkinson Counties, the Satilla District, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and the entire
32 State of Georgia.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body commend the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit for being named the
35 2014 Southern Unit of the Year and invite the dedicated professionals of the unit to be
36 recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the
37 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Chief
40 Ranger/Forest Technician James Foster Smith, Jr.