

## House Resolution 338

By: Representatives Smith of the 70<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 119<sup>th</sup>, Epps of the 144<sup>th</sup>, Holmes of the 129<sup>th</sup>, Rhodes of the 120<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Jasper-Jones County Forestry Unit upon being named the  
2 Georgia Forestry Commission 2014 Northern 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 Northern 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 Jasper-Jones Forestry Unit's most notable achievements include the  
10 following: plowing fire breaks totaling 373 miles with 96.5 percent BMP implementation;  
11 assisting with prescribed burning of 7,826 acres; providing 67 homeowners with wildfire risk  
12 assessments; assisting with the ice storm recovery efforts in east Georgia during February,  
13 2014; having 100 percent of its employees complete the arduous work capacity test and  
14 participate in the Career Development Increments Program; and deploying three rangers to  
15 fight fires in Idaho and California; and

16 WHEREAS, the forestry unit maintained outstanding wildfire protection of 321,640 forested  
17 acres in two counties with a total of 67 wildfires, which limited burned areas to 237 acres for  
18 an average fire size of only 3.53 acres; and

19 WHEREAS, due to the outstanding accomplishments of the Jasper-Jones Forestry Unit in  
20 2014, the unit was selected as Georgia Forestry Commission's Northern Unit of the Year; and

21 WHEREAS, the recognized forestry unit consists of dedicated Georgia Forestry Commission  
22 professionals Ranger Chris Buchanan, Ranger Tommy Williams, Ranger Rachel Saunders,

23 Ranger James Bledsoe, and Supplemental Firefighter Michael Holloway, serving under the  
24 leadership of Chief Ranger/Forest Technician Russell Fowler; and

25 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Jasper-Jones Forestry Unit are a clear indication of  
26 the dedication and teamwork of the individuals in the unit, their ability to work together with  
27 limited personnel resources and surpass the goals of the work group, the pride they possess  
28 in their job, and their complete devotion to Georgia's citizens and their fellow Georgia  
29 Forestry Commission professionals; and

30 WHEREAS, the Jasper-Jones Forestry Unit brings great pride to the citizens of Jasper and  
31 Jones counties, the Oconee District, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and the entire State  
32 of Georgia.

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

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Chief  
39 Ranger/Forest Technician Russell Fowler.