

House Resolution 401

By: Representatives Tanner of the 9th, Hamilton of the 24th, Duncan of the 26th, Dudgeon of the 25th, and Hitchens of the 161st

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department and inviting Sheriff Duane Piper and
2 his staff to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on June 6, 2014, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department resisted an armed
4 attack that was launched against the Forsyth County courthouse in Cumming, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, Deputy Daniel Rush, the first deputy at the scene of the attack, was shot and
6 injured while attempting to stop the perpetrator from attacking deputies, government
7 workers, and civilians inside the courthouse and in the surrounding area; and

8 WHEREAS, Deputy Bobby Francis displayed exemplary leadership by leading the way to
9 the courthouse through a large volume of gunfire and rendering lifesaving aid to Deputy
10 Rush before assisting with physically evacuating Deputy Rush from the scene; and

11 WHEREAS, Deputy Brian Chatham courageously and selflessly shielded injured Deputy
12 Rush with his body so he would not sustain further injuries from the gunfire that was raining
13 down upon them; and

14 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Matt Allen moved to stop the attacker from completing his assault
15 on the courthouse and assisted with physically evacuating Deputy Rush from the scene; and

16 WHEREAS, Corporal Matt Scott applied a tourniquet to Deputy Rush and continued to treat
17 his wounds until he was able to receive proper medical care; and

18 WHEREAS, Deputy Pat Sternik engaged the attacker with his pistol and shotgun from the
19 lobby through the front door of the courthouse while Deputy James White and Deputy Brian
20 Dublin engaged him with their pistols through the window of the Solicitor's Office and
21 Deputy Bill Keeton engaged the perpetrator with his pistol through the window of Courtroom
22 1A; and

23 WHEREAS, Deputy William Mouret, Deputy Robin Regan, Lieutenant Sebastian Strano,
24 and Sergeant Kenny Hughes joined the firefight outside the courthouse, fighting to vanquish
25 the attacker and restore peace and safety to the scene; and

26 WHEREAS, Lieutenant James Poe exhibited exemplary leadership by controlling the active
27 scene on the courthouse lawn during the shooting and leading the approach to the attacker
28 and his vehicle after the shooting; and

29 WHEREAS, these courageous men put all thoughts of their personal safety and well-being
30 aside and responded to the call to protect their fellow law enforcement professionals,
31 courthouse employees, and civilians, and their selfless actions in stopping this attack are
32 deserving of honor.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body commend the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department for their heroic
35 actions on June 6, 2014, and invite Sheriff Duane Piper and his staff to be recognized by the
36 House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House
37 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 the
40 Forsyth County Sheriff's Department.