

Senate Resolution 792

By: Senators VanNess of the 43rd, Rhett of the 33rd, Jones of the 25th, Jeffares of the 17th, Wilkinson of the 50th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Georgia State Trooper First Class Nathan Bradley, Georgia
2 State Patrol Corporal Richard Thacker, and Morgan County Sheriff Robert Markley; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Donald Howard served eight years in the United States Army, including two
5 tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq, and was a resident of Newborn in Morgan County,
6 Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia State Trooper First Class Nathan Bradley of Jackson, Georgia — even
8 though he was assigned to Newton County — volunteered to work the scene of a tragic
9 accident on Broughton Road in Morgan County where Donald Howard and his wife, Crystal,
10 were both killed; and

11 WHEREAS, when Trooper Bradley went to the Howards' home to tell the four children that
12 their parents had been killed, he discovered that the children, ages six through 13, were all
13 dressed in their Halloween costumes; and

14 WHEREAS, it is normally standard procedure to place such children under the supervision
15 of the Department of Children and Family Services, but Trooper Bradley asked his superior
16 officer, Georgia State Patrol Captain Allen Marlowe, if he could entertain the children until
17 their grandmother, who was seven hours away, could come and inform the children in
18 person; and

19 WHEREAS, Trooper Bradley, inspired by GSP's core value of compassion, occupied the
20 children all night long, driving them around town, flashing the lights and sounding the sirens,
21 and taking them to Monroe State Patrol Post 46; and

22 WHEREAS, Trooper Bradley, aged 24, was quoted as saying, "I've never been responsible
23 for a child's life and suddenly I'm the custodian for four"; and

24 WHEREAS, Georgia State Patrol Corporal Richard Thacker and his wife, Allison, spent the
25 night at the Post, feeding and attending to the children and watching movies with them; and

26 WHEREAS, Morgan County Sheriff Robert Markley left his county and drove to Walton
27 County to the Monroe Post and gave the children four huge baskets of Halloween candy and
28 honorary deputy badges; and

29 WHEREAS, all of the children had a fantastic night, and one of them said to Trooper
30 Bradley, "You turned an F-minus night into a A-Plus night!"; and

31 WHEREAS, Trooper Bradley not only established a GoFundMe page that raised over
32 \$460,000.00 for these children but also set up a trust fund for their higher education.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize and commend Georgia State Trooper First Class Nathan Bradley, Georgia State
35 Patrol Corporal Richard Thacker, and Morgan County Sheriff Robert Markley for their
36 devotion to duty and compassion for these young children in their time of need.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Trooper Nathan
39 Bradley, Corporal Richard Thacker, and Sheriff Robert Markley.