

## Senate Resolution 804

By: Senators Millar of the 40th, Thompson of the 14th, Jackson of the 24th, Heath of the 31st, Bethel of the 54th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Civil Air Patrol for their service to the citizens of Georgia; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Civil Air Patrol was founded on December 1, 1941, as an organization of  
4 volunteers to assist the United States military in national defense by performing aerial coastal  
5 patrols and emergency services within the continental United States; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1943 the capabilities of this new volunteer organization were recognized as  
7 vital to national defense, and by Presidential Executive Order, the Civil Air Patrol was  
8 assigned to the War Department and was subsequently chartered by Congress to perform  
9 three distinct missions — emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet programs; and

10 WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol air and ground teams perform over 90 percent of inland search  
11 and rescue missions tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center with its 58,000  
12 volunteers and 550 aircraft; and

13 WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol is celebrating 75 years of performing these "Missions for  
14 America," and its Chaplain Corps is celebrating its 65th year of providing "Spiritual  
15 Service"; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2015, Air Force Chief of Staff, General Mark A. Welsh III announced that  
17 Civil Air Patrol members are part of the United States Air Force's Total Force, joining the  
18 ranks of the regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Air Force retired  
19 military and civilian employees; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol consists of nearly 1,900 volunteer  
21 members in 34 squadrons and six groups located throughout this state; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing squadrons have been awarded the National Squadron of  
23 Distinction in 2008 and 2009, the Southeast Region Squadron of Distinction in 2010, and  
24 numerous other awards and unit citations for Counter Drug, Emergency Services, Cadet  
25 Programs, and a National Commander's Citation for its support of Deep Water Horizon; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing members, as an intricate component of our national defense,  
27 volunteer their services, time, and resources to actively support the Civil Air Patrol by  
28 conducting missions in homeland security, disaster relief and emergency services, search and  
29 rescue, counter drug, aerospace education, and cadet programs, as evidenced in 2015 by:  
30 assisting FEMA photograph flood damage in South Carolina, locating people in Georgia;  
31 locating and silencing numerous activated distress beacons; conducting "Sundown Patrols"  
32 in South Georgia; and conducting joint exercises with local emergency agencies throughout  
33 Georgia while utilizing its fully programmed and interoperable system of ground, mobile,  
34 and airmobile based radios paired to a robust network of repeaters throughout the state; and

35 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing volunteers also supported the Governor's Task Force for Drug  
36 Suppression with almost 400 hours of aerial support and other anti-drug efforts, and honored  
37 more than 15,000 of Georgia's fallen soldiers through the Wreaths Across America initiative;  
38 and

39 WHEREAS, the volunteers introduced hundreds of Georgia youth to aviation through the  
40 flight orientation programs; and

41 WHEREAS, Georgia Cadets competed against Cadets throughout the Southeast Region; and  
42 leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character development education was provided to Cadets  
43 at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia, while similar skill development  
44 courses were given to adult members so that they can work with various emergency  
45 jurisdictions throughout Georgia and the nation; and

46 WHEREAS, the estimated value of the Georgia Wing members' volunteer hours in 2014 was  
47 over \$5 million; and

48 WHEREAS, these "flying minutemen" of the Civil Air Patrol have, since their inception,  
49 consistently provided this state with invaluable emergency services, aerospace education, and  
50 cadet programs.

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
52 recognize the selfless contributions the volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol have made to the  
53 State of Georgia.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
55 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the volunteers of  
56 the Civil Air Patrol.