

## House Resolution 199

By: Representatives Willard of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Rhodes of the 120<sup>th</sup>, Clark of the 147<sup>th</sup>, and Efstoration of the 104<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the law enforcement officers and prosecutors who worked  
2 diligently to ensure the protection of Georgia's vulnerable adult population; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgia's vulnerable adult population continues to increase and Georgia's law  
5 enforcement community continues to exercise the superlative laws passed in House Bill 78  
6 to protect the vulnerable adult population; and

7 WHEREAS, Eatonton Police Chief Kent Lawrence, Gwinnett County Police Detective Justin  
8 Von Behren, Houston County Chief Assistant District Attorney Erikka Williams, and Cobb  
9 County Senior Assistant District Attorney Jason Marbutt protect Georgia's vulnerable adult  
10 population in an exemplary manner; and

11 WHEREAS, Eatonton Police Chief Lawrence and the Eatonton police worked selflessly to  
12 ensure the safety of one of its disabled residents who had been severely neglected by her  
13 family members; and

14 WHEREAS, Gwinnett County Police Detective Von Behren worked relentlessly until he  
15 relocated 16 residents and indicted eight people on 53 criminal charges for abuse, financial  
16 exploitation, and operating an unlicensed personal care home; and

17 WHEREAS, Houston County Chief Assistant District Attorney Williams worked diligently  
18 on a trial and argued for significant prison time for a subject who was sentenced to 15 years  
19 in prison and 16 years on probation for multiple counts of exploitation of an 82 year old  
20 resident who suffered from dementia; and

21 WHEREAS, Cobb County Senior Assistant District Attorney Marbutt worked earnestly on  
22 a trial to convict two subjects who were sentenced up to 30 years in prison for 16 counts of

23 abuse and neglect of three mentally ill men who lived in an unlicensed personal care home;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the selfless and heroic actions of Eatonton Police Chief Kent Lawrence,  
26 Gwinnett County Police Detective Justin Von Behren, Houston County Chief Assistant  
27 District Attorney Erikka Williams, and Cobb County Senior Assistant District Attorney Jason  
28 Marbutt stand as a shining tribute to the strength of human spirit and willpower, and it is  
29 abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of these remarkable and  
30 distinguished Georgians be recognized appropriately.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body recognize and commend the law enforcement officers and  
33 prosecutors for their diligent contributions to ensure the safety of Georgia's vulnerable adult  
34 citizens.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
36 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
37 Eatonton Police Chief Kent Lawrence, Gwinnett County Police Detective Justin Von Behren,  
38 Houston County Chief Assistant District Attorney Erikka Williams, and Cobb County Senior  
39 Assistant District Attorney Jason Marbutt.