

## Senate Resolution 361

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Cowser of the 46th, Beach of the 21st, Shafer of the 48th, Hill of the 4th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Joel Edward Harrell III on the grand occasion of his  
2 retirement; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Joel Edward Harrell III has long been recognized by the citizens of this state  
4 for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the  
5 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,  
7 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced  
8 dramatically by his superlative service with Norfolk Southern Railway Corporation; and

9 WHEREAS, a graduate of Virginia Tech University, Joel received his Bachelor of Science  
10 degree in Civil Engineering and his professional engineering license in 1970; and

11 WHEREAS, he began his career with Norfolk Southern Railway Corporation right after  
12 graduating and has been with the company, in several positions, for 46 years, most recently  
13 as resident vice president of public relations; and

14 WHEREAS, Joel has been Norfolk Southern's public relations representative for more than  
15 three decades and a familiar presence at the capitol with a well-deserved reputation as a  
16 subject matter expert on the railroad industry not just in Georgia but throughout the 22 states  
17 in which Norfolk Southern operates; and

18 WHEREAS, he has also served as president of the administrative board at Faith United  
19 Methodist Church and the Cedar Cliffs Homeowner's Association, and while doing this, he  
20 was also on the Planning and Zoning Board for the City of Smyrna, which led him to run for  
21 a city council seat in 1986, which he won easily, and in 1983, he was awarded Smyrna  
22 Athletic Association Basketball Coach of the Year; and

23 WHEREAS, Joel is currently the president of the Georgia Railway Association, a past  
24 member of the Atlanta Rotary Club and the Atlanta Commerce Club, a member of the  
25 Atlanta Athletic Club, and a board member for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the  
26 Georgia Transportation Alliance; and

27 WHEREAS, Joel's significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience  
28 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this  
29 state have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues, associates, and peers; and

30 WHEREAS, Joel has served with honor and distinction with the Norfolk Southern Railway  
31 Corporation, and his vision and unyielding commitment will be sorely missed upon the  
32 occasion of his retirement; and

33 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
34 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 recognize and commend Joel Edward Harrell III for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and  
37 dedicated service to the State of Georgia; congratulate him upon the grand occasion of his  
38 retirement; and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
40 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Joel Edward  
41 Harrell III.