

House Resolution 177

By: Representatives Gaines of the 117th, Wiedower of the 119th, Frye of the 118th, and Hatchett of the 150th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Ira Edwards for serving the Athens community for two decades as sheriff of
2 Athens-Clarke County; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 1985, Ira Edwards started his career with the Athens-Clarke County Sheriff's
4 Office as a sheriff deputy, working in the jail section; and

5 WHEREAS, Ira was elected in 2000 to be the sheriff of Athens-Clarke County, becoming
6 the first African American to serve as sheriff in Athens, and he served for two decades; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2003, Ira joined Fight Crime: Invest in Kids and worked on mental health
8 reform at the state and federal levels; and

9 WHEREAS, he led the sheriff's office to become the recipient of the 2007 State of Georgia
10 Law Enforcement Certification; at the time, it was one of only ten sheriff's offices in Georgia
11 to have received the prestigious award; and

12 WHEREAS, a strong community leader, Ira has served as an executive board member of the
13 Boy Scouts of Northeast Georgia and with various nonprofits throughout the community; and

14 WHEREAS, he emphasized rehabilitation at the Clarke County Sheriff's Office, including
15 a G.E.D. program that more than 150 inmates successfully completed; and

16 WHEREAS, in response to COVID-19, he worked hard to ensure the sheriff's office staff
17 and the community were kept safe; and

18 WHEREAS, Ira held an annual charity motorcycle ride to benefit the education of local
19 youth and heavily involved himself in the D.A.R.E. program, raising money and awareness
20 for an important cause; and

21 WHEREAS, he served on the Board of Directors for the National Sheriff's Association, and
22 in 2012, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Athens Tutorial Program.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body recognize Ira Edwards for serving the Athens community for two
25 decades as sheriff of Athens-Clarke County.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Ira
28 Edwards.