

Senate Resolution 245

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Echols of the 49th, Anavitarte of the 31st, Hatchett of the 50th, Watson of the 1st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Doug Collins; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Doug Collins was nominated by the administration of President Donald J.
3 Trump and confirmed by the United States Senate to be the United States Secretary of
4 Veterans Affairs, bringing his unwavering commitment to seek justice on behalf of, and in
5 support of, the valiant men and women who served and are currently serving our nation as
6 well as their families; and

7 WHEREAS, he attended North Hall High School in Gainesville, is a 1988 graduate of North
8 Georgia College and State University, and obtained a master's degree in divinity from New
9 Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and

10 WHEREAS, Doug Collins has served the people of North Georgia and this nation with the
11 utmost honor and integrity through the United States Air Force Reserves, pastoring
12 Chicopee Baptist Church in Gainesville, representing Georgia State House District 27 from
13 2007 to 2013 while completing his law degree at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, and
14 becoming the United States Representative for the 9th Congressional District of Georgia
15 from 2013 to 2021; and

16 WHEREAS, Doug Collins stood out as a friend to our nation's veterans and military families
17 through his development of legislation that opened access to healthcare, massively expanded
18 much-needed mental health service availability, and increased accountability within the
19 Department of Veterans Affairs; and

20 WHEREAS, Doug Collins is a Colonel in the United States Air Force with decades of
21 service to the military, including his deployment to Iraq, where he served in combat zones
22 in support of fellow service members as a chaplain; and

23 WHEREAS, his legislative successes are highlighted by leading the effort to reform the
24 nation's criminal justice system with the bipartisan First Step Act, creating reforms that have
25 reached countless Americans and their families by enhancing public safety and reducing
26 recidivism for nonviolent offenders; and

27 WHEREAS, during his service as Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Doug
28 Collins was a leader in helping shape national policy on many of the most critical issues of
29 today, from criminal justice reform to intellectual property and guarding our constitutional
30 principles; and

31 WHEREAS, his broad vision for the needs of veterans, acquired through his life as a military
32 veteran, qualifies him to further the department's mission of delivering world-class care and
33 support for our nation's heroes, and he is the first Iraq War veteran to serve as Secretary of
34 Veterans Affairs; and

35 WHEREAS, he never misses the opportunity to promote initiatives that always place the
36 safety, growth, and prosperity of our nation first.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 commend Doug Collins upon his nomination to the Department of Veterans Affairs and
39 extend their best wishes for his continued service.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
42 press.