

House Resolution 175

By: Representatives Gaines of the 117th and Wiedower of the 119th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Scott Berry for an outstanding career of public service and leadership as Oconee
2 County sheriff for over 27 years; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Scott Berry started a career in public service with the Norcross Police
4 Department and later took a position with the University of Georgia Police Department; and

5 WHEREAS, Scott transitioned to an investigator position at the district attorney's office and
6 remained for 13 years before being elected as the Oconee County sheriff and sworn in
7 January 1993; and

8 WHEREAS, Oconee County has since selected Scott at the polls a total of seven times,
9 including a decisive 70 percent majority during his most recent reelection bid; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1993, 220 burglaries occurred in Oconee County, and since he took office,
11 burglaries have not reached that level in any two-year period; and

12 WHEREAS, Scott expanded the Oconee County Sheriff's Department from 32 employees
13 with a budget of \$850,000 in 1993 to almost 100 employees and a budget of \$4 million in
14 2020; and

15 WHEREAS, under his leadership, construction of a new jail and office spaces for
16 administrative employees and E-911 personnel were completed; and

17 WHEREAS, Scott implemented more effective techniques for sex crime investigations that
18 have been adopted in sheriff's offices across the state; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2005, Scott directed a team of deputies to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, under his leadership, Oconee County emergency communication services linked
22 communications between the sheriff's office, fire department, and ambulance services to
23 expand the coverage from 84 percent to 99 percent of the county; and

24 WHEREAS, Scott represented Oconee County as the president of the Georgia Sheriff's
25 Association and member of both the Governor's Criminal Justice Reform Commission and
26 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Inc.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize Scott Berry for an outstanding career of public service
29 and leadership as sheriff of the Oconee County Police Department for over 27 years.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Scott
32 Berry.