

## House Resolution 240

By: Representatives Mathiak of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and Knight of the 130<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Rhett M. Mussell and the volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol for their service to  
2 the citizens of Georgia and recognizing March 6, 2019, as Civil Air Patrol Day at the state  
3 capitol; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Civil Air Patrol was founded on December 1, 1941, as an organization of  
5 volunteers to assist the United States military in national defense by performing aerial coastal  
6 patrols and emergency services within the continental United States; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1943, the capabilities of this new volunteer organization were recognized as  
8 vital to this country's national defense, and by Presidential Executive Order, the Civil Air  
9 Patrol was assigned to the War Department and was subsequently chartered by Congress to  
10 perform three distinct missions: emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet  
11 programs; and

12 WHEREAS, the Civil Air Patrol air and ground teams perform over 90 percent of inland  
13 search and rescue missions tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center; and

14 WHEREAS, the highest honor awarded to cadets within the Civil Air Patrol is the General  
15 Carl A. Spaatz Award and it is given to cadets that have demonstrated the highest level of  
16 ability in the areas of leadership, fitness, aerospace knowledge, and personal character; and

17 WHEREAS, Rhett M. Mussell of Griffin, Georgia, was honored with the Spaatz Award in  
18 October of 2018 for his exemplary conduct; this prestigious honor has only been bestowed  
19 upon 2,200 cadets since 1964; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol consists of over 1,900 volunteer  
21 members in 45 squadrons and four groups located throughout this state; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing squadrons have been awarded the National Squadron of  
23 Distinction in 2008 and 2009, the Southeast Region Squadron of Distinction in 2010, and  
24 numerous other awards for counter drug, emergency services, and cadet programs; and

25 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing members are an intricate component of this country's national  
26 defense who volunteer their services, time, and resources to actively support the Civil Air  
27 Patrol by conducting missions in homeland security, disaster relief emergency services,  
28 search and rescue, counter drug, aerospace education, and cadet programs; and

29 WHEREAS, their contributions to this state are constantly evidenced through their efforts  
30 to locate missing aircrafts and people in Georgia, to locate and silence numerous activated  
31 distress beacons, to conduct "Sundown Patrols" in South Georgia, and to conduct joint  
32 exercises with local emergency agencies throughout this state; and

33 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing volunteers also supported the Governor's Task Force for Drug  
34 Suppression and other antidrug efforts, honored more than 15,000 of Georgia's fallen soldiers  
35 through the Wreaths Across America initiative, and introduced hundreds of Georgia youth  
36 to aviation through the flight orientation programs; and

37 WHEREAS, the estimated value of the Georgia Wing members' volunteer hours is almost  
38 immeasurable; and

39 WHEREAS, these "flying minutemen" of the Civil Air Patrol have, since the program's  
40 inception, consistently provided this state with invaluable emergency services, aerospace  
41 education, and cadet programs.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
43 the members of this body commend Rhett M. Mussell and the volunteers of the Civil Air  
44 Patrol for their service to the citizens of Georgia and recognize March 6, 2019, as Civil Air  
45 Patrol Day at the state capitol.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
47 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
48 Rhett M. Mussell and the Georgia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.