

House Resolution 965

By: Representatives Powell of the 32nd, Lott of the 122nd, Prince of the 127th, Frye of the 118th, Gonzalez of the 117th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the law enforcement officers and prosecutors who worked
2 diligently to ensure the protection of Georgia's vulnerable adult population; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgia's vulnerable adult population continues to increase and Georgia's law
5 enforcement community continues to exercise the superlative laws passed in HB 78 to
6 protect the vulnerable adult population; and

7 WHEREAS, Augusta Judicial Circuit District Attorney Natalie Paine, Augusta Judicial
8 Circuit Chief Investigator Deborah Young, Augusta Judicial Circuit District Attorney
9 Investigator William Loomer, Richmond County Marshall's Officer Shawn Rhodes, Western
10 Judicial Circuit Assistant District Attorney Jeff Kwiatkowski, Western Judicial Circuit
11 District Attorney Investigator Debra Durham, and Athens Clarke County Detective Chris
12 Armel protected Georgia's vulnerable adult population in an exemplary manner; and

13 WHEREAS, the Augusta Judicial Circuit created the Crimes Against Vulnerable and Elderly
14 (CAVE) Team to selflessly ensure the safety of the residents living in personal care homes,
15 and the disabled adults and elderly living within the community; and

16 WHEREAS, the CAVE Team, includes 15 members from the Augusta Judicial Circuit, the
17 Richmond County Marshall's Office, the Richmond County Sheriff's Office, the Richmond
18 County Coroner's Office, and the Richmond County Fire Department; and

19 WHEREAS, Athens Clarke County Detective Chris Armel, Western Judicial Circuit District
20 Attorney Investigator Debra Durham, and Western Judicial Circuit Assistant District
21 Attorney Jeffrey Kwiatkowski worked relentlessly to investigate, indict, and prosecute an
22 Athens woman and her coconspirator in a 19 count indictment with multiple counts of
23 exploitation and intimidation of a disabled adult, operating an unlicensed personal care home,
24 and false imprisonment; and

25 WHEREAS, the operator of the unlicensed personal care home pleaded guilty to all counts,
26 and received a 40 year sentence, to serve 12 years in prison; and

27 WHEREAS, the Athens-Clarke County Police Department in conjunction with Adult
28 Protective Services, the Georgia Department of Community Health, and the Athens
29 Community Council of Aging did a superb job of investigating and ensuring that the district
30 attorney's office had the information to bring the case to a successful resolution; and

31 WHEREAS, the sentence received by the defendant puts criminals on notice that treating the
32 disadvantaged in this manner will not be tolerated in the state of Georgia, and teaches them
33 that all citizens deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body recognize the accomplishments of Augusta Judicial Circuit District
36 Attorney Natalie Paine, Augusta Judicial Circuit Chief Investigator Deborah Young, Augusta
37 Judicial Circuit District Attorney Investigator William Loomer, Richmond County Marshall's
38 Officer Shawn Rhodes, Western Judicial Circuit Assistant District Attorney Jeff
39 Kwiatkowski, Western Judicial Circuit District Attorney Investigator Debra Durham, and
40 Athens Clarke County Detective Chris Armel, and commend them for their contributions to
41 the safety of Georgia's citizens.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
44 Augusta Judicial Circuit District Attorney Natalie Paine, Augusta Judicial Circuit Chief
45 Investigator Deborah Young, Augusta Judicial Circuit District Attorney Investigator William
46 Loomer, Richmond County Marshall's Officer Shawn Rhodes, Western Judicial Circuit
47 Assistant District Attorney Jeff Kwiatkowski, Western Judicial Circuit District Attorney
48 Investigator Debra Durham, and Athens Clarke County Detective Chris Armel.