

Senate Resolution 132

By: Senators Harper of the 7th, Miller of the 49th, Merritt of the 9th, Gooch of the 51st, McNeill of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Game Warden Ryan Locke of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2 on being named the Law Enforcement Division's 2020 Game Warden of the Year; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Game Warden Ryan Locke realized his desire to become a Georgia game
5 warden in the sixth grade when the local game warden conducted an information and
6 education presentation at his school; and

7 WHEREAS, reaching his goal, he graduated with the 31st class of the Georgia Game Warden
8 Academy in 2017, and in only three years, he has exhibited exceptional and outstanding
9 performance in public safety and conservation law enforcement, distinguishing himself
10 among his peers; and

11 WHEREAS, he is an ambitious, resourceful, and astute enforcement officer who is
12 particularly adept in the areas of boating safety and investigations; and

13 WHEREAS, Game Warden Locke is assigned to one of the busiest lakes in the nation as the
14 boating safety officer on Lake Sidney Lanier, where last year he checked 490 boats,

15 documented 183 citations, and wrote 186 warnings for a total of 369 contacts; he also led the
16 Northeast Georgia region with 13 boating under the influence arrests; and

17 WHEREAS, away from the lake, he checked 155 hunting licenses and 217 fishing licenses
18 and also investigated a poaching case that identified 63 violations by seven different
19 poachers, including hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road,
20 possession of over the bag limit, and numerous license offenses; and

21 WHEREAS, his supervisors and his community recognized his exceptional work ethic and
22 commitment to serving and protecting Georgians and the state's natural and cultural resources
23 last year when he received the Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division's Torch Award, and
24 in 2018, he was awarded the John W. Jacobs Award for excellence in law enforcement by
25 the Gainesville/Hall County Kiwanis Club; and

26 WHEREAS, Game Warden Locke is very involved with the Hall County Safe Kids
27 Coalition, and he teaches water safety at the local schools; he also participates with the Corps
28 of Engineers and Northeast Georgia Medical Center through a life jacket giveaway program,
29 which provides free life jackets to boaters if they are lacking the appropriate safety
30 equipment; and

31 WHEREAS, he is always willing to do whatever is asked of him with a smile on his face,
32 including assisting other game wardens and local, state, and federal law enforcement
33 agencies when needed.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 commend Game Warden Ryan Locke on being named the Law Enforcement Division's 2020
36 Game Warden of the Year and extend wishes for continued health and success.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Game Warden
39 Ryan Locke.