

Senate Resolution 211

By: Senators Thompson of the 14th, Harper of the 7th, Robertson of the 29th, Cowsert of the 46th, Miller of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Vernon M. Keenan for his devotion and service to the Georgia
2 Bureau of Investigation for 45 years; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Vernon M. Keenan has always been a natural leader; during his career working
4 at the GBI, he has been promoted to every rank within the agency's Investigative Division
5 since beginning his career as a Special Agent in 1973; and

6 WHEREAS, through his unwavering commitment to the safety and security of citizens both
7 domestic and abroad, he was appointed to director of the GBI by Governor Purdue in 2003
8 and then reappointed by Governor Deal in 2011; and

9 WHEREAS, Vernon earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice at Valdosta
10 State College in addition to working as a police officer that same year in the DeKalb County
11 Georgia Police Department; he also earned his master's degree in public administration from
12 Columbus State University when he graduated from the Georgia Chiefs of Police Command
13 College; and

14 WHEREAS, Vernon held a crucial role in establishing the GBI's Cyber Crime Center in
15 Augusta that is integral for ensuring the security of our state; and

16 WHEREAS, he has maintained family values, as can be seen by his strong marriage to Mrs.
17 Joan Thomas Keenan since 1973, and their two sons, Mack and Jackson Vernon, at their
18 home in Cherokee, Georgia; and

19 WHEREAS, Vernon has been awarded the Hero of Open Government Award in 2005, CIT
20 Leadership Award in 2006, 2008 Outstanding Georgia Police Chief of the Year, and
21 Governor's Public Safety Award in 2010 and was voted to be on the top 100 most influential
22 Georgians by *Georgia Trend* magazine; and

23 WHEREAS, the countless sacrifices Vernon has given to ensure the continued protection of
24 Georgians are a true testament to his rare and impossibly impeccable character; along with
25 being a true gentleman, he is also a natural leader who looks after the welfare of all
26 individuals under his purview.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 recognize and honor Vernon M. Keenan for not only his time serving at the GBI but also his
29 character that is an inspiration to all Georgians.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Vernon M.
32 Keenan.