

Senate Resolution 286

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Harbin of the 16th, Stone of the 23rd, Tillery of the 19th, Harper of the 7th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Civil Air Patrol for their service to the citizens of Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

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

6 WHEREAS, in 1943, the capabilities of this new volunteer organization were recognized as
7 vital to national defense, and by Presidential Executive Order, the Civil Air Patrol was
8 assigned to the War Department and was designated by Congress on May 26, 1948, as the
9 official auxiliary to the United States Air Force to perform three distinct missions –
10 emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet programs; and

11 WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol air and ground teams perform over 90 percent of inland search
12 and rescue missions tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center with its 60,000
13 volunteers and 560 aircraft; and

14 WHEREAS, the Civil Air Patrol's association with the United States Air Force in performing
15 these "Missions for America" as part of the United States Air Force's Total Force joins the
16 ranks of the regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Air Force retired
17 military and civilian employees; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol consists of nearly 1,900 volunteer
19 members in 43 squadrons and six groups located throughout this state; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing squadrons have been awarded the National Squadron of
21 Distinction in 2008 and 2009, the Southeast Region Squadron of Distinction in 2010, and
22 numerous other awards and unit citations for Counter Drug, Emergency Services, Cadet
23 Programs, and a National Commander's Citation for its support of Deep Water Horizon; and

24 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing members received national recognition in 2018 by receiving
25 awards for the CAP Aerospace Education Mission; the CAP Cadet Program; the Aerospace
26 Education Teacher of the Year; the Air Force Sergeants Association Cadet NCO of the Year;
27 and four National Balsem Awards for Top Public Affairs Efforts; and

28 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing members, as an intricate component of our national defense,
29 volunteer their services, time, and resources to actively support the Civil Air Patrol by
30 conducting missions in homeland security, disaster relief and emergency services, search and
31 rescue, counter drug, aerospace education, and cadet programs, as evidenced this past year
32 by: assisting the Department of Homeland Security and the Air Force in their aerial response
33 preparation for Superbowl LIII, heavily supporting hurricane relief efforts for Florence and
34 Michael by assisting FEMA photograph damage and providing thousands of aerial images,
35 locating people in Georgia, locating and silencing numerous activated distress beacons,
36 conducting "Sundown Patrols" in South Georgia, and conducting joint exercises with local
37 emergency agencies throughout Georgia whilst utilizing its fully programmed and
38 interoperable system of ground, mobile, and airmobile based radios paired to a robust
39 network of repeaters throughout the state. Georgia Wing volunteers also honored more than
40 15,000 of Georgia's fallen soldiers through the Wreaths Across America initiative.
41 Moreover, the volunteers introduced hundreds of Georgia youth to aviation through the flight
42 orientation programs. Georgia Cadets competed against Cadets throughout the Southeast
43 Region; and leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character development education were
44 provided to Cadets at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, while similar skill development courses were
45 given to adult members so that they can work with various emergency jurisdictions
46 throughout Georgia and the nation; and

47 WHEREAS, the estimated value of the Georgia Wing members' volunteer hours in 2018 was
48 almost \$5.8 million; and

49 WHEREAS, these "flying minutemen" of the Civil Air Patrol have, since its inception,
50 consistently provided this state with invaluable emergency services, aerospace education, and
51 cadet programs.

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
53 recognize the selfless contributions the volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol have made to the
54 State of Georgia.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
56 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia Wing
57 of the Civil Air Patrol.