

Senate Resolution 861

By: Senators James of the 35th and Rhett of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the September 11th First Responders Appreciation program;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Audraine Jackson of Atlanta, Georgia, established the September 11th First
4 Responders Appreciation program in 2002 to show appreciation for the unique and often
5 unheralded contributions of police officers and firefighters on behalf of the citizens of this
6 state; and

7 WHEREAS, each year on September 11, Audraine and radio personality Si-Man Baby of
8 Majic 97.5/107.5 deliver food, beverages, and warm gratitude to fire stations and precincts
9 across Southwest Atlanta and adjoining communities; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2013, the program honored the Helicopter Unit of the Special Operation
11 Section of the Atlanta Police Department in recognition of the enormous sacrifice made by
12 Officers Richard Halford and Shawn Smiley, two law enforcement officials of
13 unquestionable integrity who lost their lives in a helicopter crash while searching for a
14 missing child; and

15 WHEREAS, national events in 2016, such as the violent ambush of police officers in Dallas,
16 Texas, made recognition of the ineffable contributions of first responders more important
17 than ever; and

18 WHEREAS, the September 11th First Responders Appreciation program was founded to
19 show appreciation for everyday heroes but it is currently unable to reach all first responders
20 serving the metro Atlanta area due to limited funding; and

21 WHEREAS, the program is entering its 17th year of existence supported by volunteers, radio
22 personalities, and local elected officials who want to thank the area's first responders for their
23 outstanding contributions to public safety; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2010, the program was aided by a delegation of students of Jewish Faith from
25 the University of Georgia; and

26 WHEREAS, the September 11th First Responders Appreciation program began as a simple
27 act of gratitude and has since become a mainstay of recognition for many of Atlanta's first
28 responders, and grateful citizens of other areas often ask the program for advice on how to
29 create a similar program for their own communities; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
31 extraordinary organization be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize and commend the September 11th First Responders Appreciation program for its
34 many valuable contributions to first responders on behalf of the citizens of Georgia and
35 extend best wishes for its continued growth, development, and success.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
38 September 11th First Responders Appreciation program.