

Senate Resolution 863

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Strickland of the 17th, Kennedy of the 18th, Stone of the 23rd, 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 chartered by Congress in 1948 as the official
9 auxiliary to the United States Air Force to perform three distinct missions: emergency
10 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 aircrafts; and

14 WHEREAS, Civil War 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 resulted in the Air Force awarding Civil Air Patrol with
18 the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award; and

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

21 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing squadrons have been awarded the National Squadron of
22 Distinction in 2008 and 2009; the Southeast Region Squadron of Distinction in 2010;

23 numerous other awards and unit citations for counter drug, emergency services, and cadet
24 programs; and a National Commander's Citation for its support of Deep Water Horizon; and

25 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing members, as an intricate component of our national defense,
26 volunteer their services, time, and resources to actively support the Civil Air Patrol by
27 conducting missions in homeland security, disaster relief and emergency services, search and
28 rescue, counter drug, aerospace education, and cadet programs, as evidenced this past year
29 by assisting the Department of Homeland Security and the Air Force in their aerial response
30 preparation for Superbowl LIII; heavily supporting hurricane relief efforts for Dorian and
31 Michael by assisting FEMA photograph damage and providing thousands of activated
32 distress beacons; conducting "Sundown Patrols" in South Georgia; and conducting joint
33 exercises with local emergency agencies through Georgia while utilizing its fully
34 programmed and interoperable system of ground, mobile, and airmobile based radios paired
35 to a robust network of repeaters throughout the state; and

36 WHEREAS, Georgia Wing volunteers have deployed to Puerto Rico to assist in recovery
37 efforts after numerous hurricanes and earthquakes devastated the area, have been on the
38 forefront in developing Unmanned Aerial Systems operations to map and assess critical
39 infrastructure, have honored more than 15,000 of Georgia's fallen soldiers through the
40 Wreaths Across America initiative, have introduced hundreds of youth and educators in
41 Georgia to aviation through the flight orientation programs, and have helped train Air Force
42 Airmen looking to become pilots; and

43 WHEREAS, Georgia Cadets competed against Cadets throughout the Southeast Region, and
44 leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character development education was provided to Cadets
45 at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, while similar skill development courses were given to adult members
46 so that they can work with various emergency jurisdictions throughout Georgia and the
47 nation; and

48 WHEREAS, the estimated value of the Georgia Wing members' volunteer hours in 2019 was
49 almost \$5.8 million; and

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

53 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the dedication and efforts of these brave
54 volunteers be appropriately recognized.

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

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