

## House Resolution 1229

By: Representatives Gladney of the 130<sup>th</sup>, Bonner of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Mathiak of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for additional resources  
2 to address elder care, nursing home access, and expanded disabled residential programs for  
3 veteran community populations; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgia supports 13 federal Department of Defense military installations and  
5 54 Georgia Department of Defense National Guard and Reserve Units, with almost every  
6 branch of service represented. Currently Georgia has an active forward deployment of  
7 Reserve and National Guard joint forces units as well as active duty troops abroad, in harm's  
8 way, sacrificing life and limb, time with family, and peace of mind to honor the commitment  
9 of their oath to support and defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and  
10 domestic, pursuant to the orders of the officers appointed over them; and

11 WHEREAS, the passage of the PACT Act in 2022 was life-changing for thousands of  
12 Georgia's veterans by expanding veterans affairs health care and benefits for veterans who  
13 were exposed to toxic chemicals during their active military conflicts from WWII to the Gulf  
14 War; however, that legislation fell short of providing necessary "quality of life assisted  
15 living" or elder care resources for veterans when they need support the most; and

16 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Veterans Services and its accredited veteran service  
17 officers have done an outstanding job providing support to veterans across the State of  
18 Georgia using the allocated resources to staff the Georgia Department of Veterans Services'  
19 55 offices with accredited veteran service officers help veterans, their families, survivors, and  
20 care givers receive the benefits they have earned through their military service; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2019, birthed from the idea of an active veteran community effort, the  
22 Georgia General Assembly exercised some foresight by initiating support for a \$1 million  
23 budgetary request on behalf of the Augusta legislative delegation and the Richmond County  
24 local government to support the creation and start-up funding for a state veterans cemetery  
25 to accompany a \$10 million state owned property investment of 219 acres. That plan was  
26 rejected for immediate consideration, and the project was downgraded from 22nd on the  
27 priority list to 35th in its most recent consideration from the Department of Veterans Affairs  
28 Cemetery Grant Program; and

29 WHEREAS, on January 28, 2024, SGT Kennedy Sanders, SSG William Jerome Rivers, and  
30 SGT Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, all from Georgia-based Department of Defense National  
31 Guard or Reserve Units, were killed by a drone strike on their base in Jordan near the Syrian  
32 border. They were on assignment to secure our freedom to continue to do the work. This  
33 body owes them and every individual who dons the uniform the honor of respecting their  
34 sacrifice and advocating for their commitment. The men and women who have been  
35 guardians of this nation's freedom and liberty deserve our gratitude and support.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body urge the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide  
38 for additional resources to address elder care, nursing home access, and expanded disabled  
39 residential programs for veteran community populations.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
42 members of the Georgia Congressional delegation and the public and the press.