

House Resolution 499

By: Representatives Powell of the 32nd, Hitchens of the 161st, Atwood of the 179th, O'Neal of the 146th, Powell of the 171st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. John G. R. Bankhead, the GBI's Director of Public
2 Affairs, on the occasion of his retirement and his contributions to the law enforcement
3 profession in Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Bankhead has been employed by the GBI since December, 1987, and was
5 the first full-time Public Affairs Officer in the history of the agency; prior to the GBI, Mr.
6 Bankhead graduated from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, with a degree in
7 business administration and was also a First Lieutenant in the Military Police for the U.S.
8 Army; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Bankhead is the longest serving public affairs officer in Georgia state
10 government and is well known among the media in Georgia for his professionalism and
11 knowledge of the media and of GBI and law enforcement procedures; his institutional insight
12 allows him to effectively communicate, in a timely manner, issues that are of interest to the
13 media and informative to the general public; and

14 WHEREAS, in his role as Director of Public Affairs, Mr. Bankhead interacts on a regular
15 basis with the public and the news media, and he serves as a legislative liaison for the GBI
16 at the Georgia General Assembly and the Governor's staff; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Bankhead's credibility with both the media and the members of the public
18 is beyond reproach; he is highly respected for his honesty and professionalism and is often
19 asked to coordinate media responses for other agencies and city and state government
20 officials, often becoming the public state-wide and national face for the GBI, and other
21 Georgia law enforcement, in his role as the public spokesperson for the involved agencies;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Bankhead has an excellent intuition when it comes to knowing and
24 understanding what the storyline will be concerning active and often intense investigative

25 events; he knows how to communicate issues to the media while respecting the privacy of
26 victims and their families and protecting the integrity of ongoing and developing criminal
27 investigations; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Bankhead has been instrumental in providing information on legislative
29 issues, resulting in the successful passage of several bills the GBI was involved in including
30 public safety reform, synthetic drugs, and sovereign citizens; other legislative matters Mr.
31 Bankhead has been involved in since 1994 include the DNA database of convicted felons,
32 expanding the DNA database at the GBI to include those convicted of certain felonies and
33 placed on probation, allowing the search of certain suspect's DNA through the database, the
34 sex offender registry, Mattie's Call, the banning of novelty licenses, and a law that provided
35 important tools to Georgia law enforcement in their efforts to protect Georgia's children
36 against Internet sex predators; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Bankhead has served the GBI, the Georgia law enforcement community,
38 and the people of Georgia in an exemplary manner.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body recognize the accomplishments of Mr. John G. R. Bankhead and
41 commend him for his contributions to the GBI and the State of Georgia for over 25 years of
42 loyal service.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
44 and directed to transmit and appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. John G. R. Bankhead.