

## Senate Resolution 776

By: Senators Kennedy of the 18th, Walker III of the 20th, Tippins of the 37th, Dugan of the 30th, Harbison of the 15th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Byron Elementary Navy Junior ROTC for its continued  
2 efforts in shaping youth leaders of the Peach County community; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Keith Lauritsen serves as principal of Byron Elementary School; and

4 WHEREAS, Byron Elementary School is the only elementary school to offer a Junior ROTC  
5 program in the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Boatswain Mate Sheldone Almond, a former service member, serves as the  
7 Junior ROTC instructor at Byron Elementary School; and

8 WHEREAS, the Navy Junior ROTC program seeks to instill in students the value of  
9 citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of  
10 accomplishment; and

11 WHEREAS, Byron Elementary School sought to implement a program that would transform  
12 boys and girls into respectful and responsible young adults by giving them the opportunity  
13 to belong to an organization that they could be proud of, as well as by developing their  
14 leadership skills and cultivating their capacity to be successful; and

15 WHEREAS, there are currently 62 students in the program who participate in drill practice  
16 twice a week, wear uniforms every Thursday, and raise and lower the American flag daily;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, students seeking to participate in the Navy Junior ROTC program must be in  
19 behavioral and academic good standing to be admitted into the program; and

20 WHEREAS, the Junior ROTC program at Byron Elementary School can proudly proclaim  
21 that it has a positive impact on students by providing them with a sense of purpose and a  
22 feeling of camaraderie that might otherwise be absent without the program.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
24 recognize and commend Byron Elementary School Navy Junior ROTC and express their  
25 sincerest best wishes for continued success.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
27 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Byron  
28 Elementary School Junior ROTC Program.