

HOUSE JOURNAL

Representative Hall, Atlanta, Georgia

Monday, January 12, 2015

First Legislative Day

The Representatives-elect of the General Assembly of Georgia for the years 2015-2016 met pursuant to law in the Hall of the House of Representatives at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., this day and were called to order by William L. Reilly, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Prayer was offered by Reverend Carl D. Johnson, Not I But Christ Ministries, Tucker, Georgia.

The members pledged allegiance to the flag.

The following communication from the Honorable Brian P. Kemp, Secretary of State, certifying the Representatives-elect for the years 2015-2016, was received and read:

State of Georgia
Office of Secretary of State

I, Brian P. Kemp, Secretary of State of the State of Georgia, do hereby certify that the attached six (6) pages of typewritten matter constitute a true and correct list of State Representatives in the General Assembly of Georgia in the 2014 General Election held on November 4, 2014; all as the same appear of file and record in this office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office, at the Capitol, in the City of Atlanta, this 6th day of January, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Fifteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Ninth.

/s/ Brian P. Kemp
Brian P. Kemp, Secretary of State

(SEAL)

Seat	Elected Official
District 1	John V. Deffenbaugh
District 2	Thomas S. "Steve" Tarvin
District 3	Thomas D. "Tom" Weldon Jr.
District 4	Bruce L. Broadrick Sr.
District 5	John D. Meadows
District 6	T.S. "Tom" Dickson
District 7	David E. Ralston
District 8	Stephen T. Allison
District 9	Kevin Kermit Tanner
District 10	T.A. "Terry" Rogers
District 11	R.C. "Rick" Jasperse
District 12	J.E. "Eddie" Lumsden
District 13	Katie M. Dempsey
District 14	Christian A. Coomer
District 15	Paul R. Battles
District 16	O.D. "Trey" Kelley
District 17	Howard Richard Maxwell
District 18	Kevin C. Cooke
District 19	Paulette Rakestraw Braddock
District 20	Michael R. Caldwell
District 21	Scot Turner
District 22	Wesley E. "Wes" Cantrell
District 23	Mandi L. Ballinger
District 24	Mark D. Hamilton
District 25	Michael J. Dudgeon
District 26	Geoffrey L. Duncan
District 27	B. Lee Hawkins
District 28	Robert D. "Dan" Gasaway
District 29	Carlton W. Rogers Sr.
District 30	Emory W. Dunahoo Jr.
District 31	Thomas H. "Tommy" Benton
District 32	Alan T. Powell
District 33	T.A. "Tom" McCall
District 34	Albert T. "Bert" Reeves
District 35	L. Edwin "Ed" Setzler
District 36	Earl D. Ehrhart
District 37	Samuel K. "Sam" Teasley
District 38	David L. Wilkerson
District 39	Erica R. Thomas
District 40	Richard M. "Rich" Golick
District 41	Michael A. Smith
District 42	Stacey G. Evans

District 43	Sharon M. Cooper
District 44	Donald L. "Don" Parsons
District 45	Matthew K. "Matt" Dollar
District 46	John K. Carson
District 47	Jan S. Jones
District 48	Harry C. Geisinger
District 49	Charles E. "Chuck" Martin Jr.
District 51	Wendell K. Willard
District 52	Joseph B. "Joe" Wilkinson
District 53	Sheila Jones
District 54	Beth Beskin
District 55	Tyrone Brooks
District 56	M. "Able Mable" Thomas
District 57	Patricia Park "Pat" Gardner
District 58	Simone Bell
District 59	Margaret D. Kaiser
District 60	Keisha Sean Waites
District 61	Roger B. Bruce
District 62	LaDawn Blackett "LBJ" Jones
District 63	R.E. "Ronnie" Mabra
District 64	Virgil L. Fludd
District 65	Sharon Beasley-Teague
District 66	Kimberly A. Alexander
District 67	M.T. "Micah" Gravley
District 68	Dustin W. "Dusty" Hightower
District 69	Randall O. "Randy" Nix
District 70	E.R. "Lynn" Smith
District 71	David J. Stover
District 72	Matthew L. "Matt" Ramsey
District 73	John P. Yates
District 74	Valencia Stovall
District 75	M.E. "Mike" Glanton
District 76	Andrea Givens Scott
District 77	Darryl W. Jordan
District 78	Demetrius M. Douglas
District 79	Thomas K. "Tom" Taylor
District 80	Michael J. "Mike" Jacobs
District 81	M. Scott Holcomb
District 82	Mary Margaret Oliver
District 83	Howard A. Mosby
District 84	Rahn Mayo
District 85	Karla L. Drenner

District 86	Michele Henson
District 87	Earnest L. "Coach" Williams
District 88	William W. "Billy" Mitchell
District 89	Stacey J. Abrams
District 90	Pamela S. Stephenson
District 91	D. "Dee" Dawkins-Haigler
District 92	Tonya P. Anderson
District 93	Dar'shun Nicole Kendrick
District 94	Karen L. Bennett
District 95	Thomas R. "Tom" Rice
District 96	Pedro R. "Pete" Marin
District 97	Brooks P. Coleman
District 98	David T. Clark
District 99	J. Hugh Floyd
District 100	Dewey L. McClain
District 101	Valerie M. Clark
District 102	G.S. "Buzz" Brockway
District 103	Timothy L. Barr
District 104	C.P. "Chuck" Efstrotation
District 105	Joyce H. Chandler
District 106	Brett Harrell
District 107	David S. Casas
District 108	B.J. Pak
District 109	R. Dale Rutledge
District 110	Andrew J. "Andy" Welch
District 111	R. Brian Strickland
District 112	D.C. "Dave" Belton
District 113	Pamela A. "Pam" Dickerson
District 114	L. Thomas "Tom" Kirby
District 115	H.D. "Bruce" Williamson III
District 116	Terry Lamar England
District 117	Regina M. Quick
District 118	Spencer R. Frye
District 119	Charles E. "Chuck" Williams
District 121	Barry Abbott Fleming
District 122	Benjie L. "Ben" Harbin
District 123	Barbara W. Sims
District 124	Henry D. "Wayne" Howard
District 125	Earnest G. Smith
District 126	Gloria J. Frazier
District 127	Brian L. Prince
District 128	W. Mack Jackson

District 129	Susan D. Holmes
District 130	David W. Knight
District 131	Johnnie L. Caldwell Jr.
District 132	Robert T. "Bob" Trammell Jr.
District 133	John D. Pezold
District 134	Richard H. Smith
District 135	Calvin Smyre
District 136	Carolyn F. Hugley
District 137	Debbie G. Buckner
District 138	M.A. "Mike" Cheokas
District 139	Patty J. Bentley
District 140	Robert L. Dickey
District 141	Allen M. Peake
District 142	Nikki T. Randall
District 143	James T. Beverly
District 144	James A. "Bubber" Epps
District 145	E. Culver "Rusty" Kidd
District 146	Lawrence E. "Larry" O'Neal Jr.
District 147	Heath N. Clark
District 148	O. Hall "Buddy" Harden
District 149	Jimmy H. Pruett Jr.
District 150	J.M. "Matt" Hatchett
District 151	Gerald E. Greene
District 152	Eugene E. "Ed" Rynders
District 153	Darrel B. Ealum
District 154	Winfred J. Dukes
District 155	J.H. "Jay" Roberts
District 156	Greg Morris
District 157	William A. "Bill" Werkheiser
District 158	Larry J. "Butch" Parrish
District 159	Jon G. Burns
District 160	Jan B. Tankersley
District 161	W.W. Hitchens
District 162	R.B. "Bob" Bryant
District 163	J. Craig Gordon
District 164	J.R. "Ron" Stephens
District 165	E.V. "Mickey" Stephens
District 166	Jesse L. Petrea
District 167	J.B. "Jeff" Jones
District 168	Al Williams
District 169	Dominic F. LaRiccia
District 170	L.P. "Penny" Houston
District 171	Alfred J. "Jay" Powell Jr.

District 172	Samuel L. "Sam" Watson
District 173	Darlene K. Taylor
District 174	John L. Corbett
District 175	Amy A. Carter
District 176	James S. "Jason" Shaw Jr.
District 177	Dexter L. Sharper
District 178	John Chadwick Nimmer
District 179	James A. "Alex" Atwood
District 180	Jason C. Spencer

The following communications were received:

State of Georgia
Office of the Governor
Atlanta 30334-0900

April 28, 2014

The Honorable Casey Cagle
Lieutenant Governor
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Honorable David Ralston
Speaker of the Georgia House
of Representatives
332 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Gentlemen:

Please be advised that I have identified language to disregard for the following sections in House Bill 744:

Non-Binding Information Language to Disregard

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 20, line 586;
Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 30, line 885; and
Section 27, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 69, line 2158.

The messages for each item referenced above are attached.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nathan Deal

ND:rb

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Brian Kemp, Secretary of State
The Honorable Sam Olens, Attorney General
The Honorable Jack Hill, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Terry England, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Mr. David A. Cook, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Bill Reilly, Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives
Mr. Wayne R. Allen, Legislative Counsel

HB 744 – FY 2015 Appropriations Bill

Intent Language Considered Non-Binding

Section 15, pertaining to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, page 20, Line 586:

The General Assembly seeks to direct the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency in order to receive additional federal funding for supported employment services. The General Assembly further directs that the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency direct \$1,000,000 of the additional federal funding to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Page 23, Line 675 of HB 744 also directs the Department to provide an actionable plan to the General Assembly to create third party cooperative arrangements between the Department, University System of Georgia, Technical College System of Georgia, and Georgia Student Finance Commission to maximize financial assistance for vocational rehabilitation clients. It is premature to redirect resources between agencies prior to the creation of an actionable plan detailing how best to maximize available financial assistance for vocational rehabilitation services. Therefore, the Department is authorized to determine the most efficient use of available resources to maximize services for vocational rehabilitation clients in accordance with federal regulations and the general law powers of the Department.

Section 17, pertaining to the Department of Community Health, page 30, line 885:

The general Assembly seeks to instruct the Department to provide emergency transportation for medically indigent citizens 21 years of age and older by rotary wing air ambulance at the same reimbursement rates as citizens under the age of 21 through the Departmental Administration and Program Support program. The purpose of the Departmental Administration and Program Support program is to provide administrative

support to all departmental programs. Review and reimbursement of health care claims to providers for medical services falls outside the scope of the purpose of the Departmental Administration program. Additionally, no funds were appropriated to the program to support implementation of the policy. The Departmental Administration and Program Support program does not have sufficient internal resources to redirect funds to implement this policy. Therefore, the Department is authorized to operate the program in accordance with the purpose of the program and the general law powers of the Department.

Section 27, pertaining to the Department of Human Services, page 69, line 2158:

The General Assembly seeks to direct the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in order to receive additional federal funding for supported employment services. The General Assembly further directs that the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency direct \$1,000,000 of the additional federal funding to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Page 68, Line 2121 of HB 744 also instructs the Agency to provide an actionable plan to the General Assembly to create third party cooperative arrangements with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, University System of Georgia, Technical College System of Georgia, and Georgia Student Finance Commission to maximize financial assistance for vocational rehabilitation clients. It is premature to redirect resources between agencies prior to the creation of an actionable plan detailing how best to maximize available financial assistance for vocational rehabilitation services. Therefore, the Agency is authorized to determine the most efficient use of available resources to maximize services for vocational rehabilitation clients in accordance with federal regulations and the general law powers of the Agency.

State of Georgia
Office of the Governor
Atlanta 30334-0900

April 29, 2014

The Honorable David Ralston
Speaker of the Georgia House
of Representatives
332 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Speaker Ralston:

I have vetoed House Bills 670, 729, 769, 837, 858, 905, 906, and 1146 which passed the General Assembly during the 2014 Regular Session.

Article III, Section V, Paragraph XIII of the Georgia Constitution requires that I transmit these bills to you together with the reasons for such vetoes. These bills and corresponding reasons for the vetoes are attached.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nathan Deal

ND:rt

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Casey Cagle, Lieutenant Governor
The Honorable Brian Kemp, Secretary of State
The Honorable Sam Olens, Attorney General
Mr. Bill Reilly, Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives
Mr. David A. Cook, Secretary of the Georgia State Senate
Mr. Wayne R. Allen, Legislative Counsel

State of Georgia
Office of the Governor
Atlanta 30334-0900

April 29, 2014

The Honorable Casey Cagle
President of the Senate
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Honorable David Shafer
President Pro Tempore
321 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Lieutenant Governor Cagle and Senator Shafer:

I have vetoed Senate Bills 281 and 326 which passed the General Assembly during the 2014 Regular Session.

Article III, Section V, Paragraph XIII of the Georgia Constitution requires that I transmit these bills to you together with the reasons for such veto. This bill and corresponding reason for the veto is attached.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nathan Deal

ND:rt

Attachment

cc: The Honorable David Ralston, Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives
The Honorable Brian Kemp, Secretary of State
The Honorable Sam Olens, Attorney General
Mr. David A. Cook, Secretary of the Georgia State Senate
Mr. Bill Reilly, Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives
Mr. Wayne R. Allen, Legislative Counsel

Veto Number 1

SB 281: Senate Bill 281 would require that the State of Georgia offer a specific type of health insurance product in the state health insurance plan. The Department of Community Health has announced the plan to procure additional product offerings for the state health insurance plan which closely mirrors the general intent of this legislation. I agree with the author of this legislation that the state health insurance plan should include additional options, particularly options that are consumer-driven. However, to avoid any problem with the new product offerings not specifically conforming to the rather specific requirements set out in this legislation, out of an abundance of caution, **I hereby VETO Senate Bill 281.**

Veto Number 2

SB 326: The original as filed Senate Bill 326 was amended with language providing additional daily expense allowance for the members of the State Personnel Board, the State Transportation Board, the Veterans Service Board, the Board of Natural Resources, and the State Board of Education. Current law sets the daily expense allowance for members at \$105. This bill increases the board members' daily expense allowance by sixty-seven percent. Given the lack of justification provided for such increases in the board members' daily expense allowance, **I hereby VETO Senate Bill 326.**

Veto Number 3

HB 670: Currently, business trade names are housed and accessed in the Superior Courts of our state. This bill would create a statewide registry of business trade names to be housed and maintained by the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority. Several provisions of this legislation are concerning. This legislation would effectively

increase taxes on small businesses by raising trade name registration fees and would add new fees for canceling or reregistering existing trade names. I also have significant concerns about the language in the bill which attempts to dedicate these fees for a specific purpose. For these reasons, **I VETO HB 670.**

Veto Number 4

HB 729: Georgia's existing Title Ad Valorem Tax law ("TAVT"), enacted March 1, 2013, eliminated the "birthday tax" and substituted it with a one-time payment upon the transfer of the vehicle title. I support the main effort of this bill, which sought to ensure there was no gaming of the vehicle trade-in valuations during the purchase and trade-in of a used car. However, the inclusion of the language regarding a lease finance company being eligible for a trade-in reduction at the end of a leased term significantly changes the trade-in definition. Current law states that local governments must receive a base amount and the first recalibration of the disbursements is Jan. 1, 2016. The first recalibration of the state target collection is July 1, 2015, which will determine if the tax rate requires a change. The negative effects of the lease provision on the state and local collections would be addressed in both recalibrations. I am vetoing this legislation because I believe it is too soon to implement a law that adversely affects revenue, thus, leaving the state of Georgia TAVT taxpayers in a more unstable position as the split between the state and local governments share of this revenue. Accordingly, **I VETO HB 729.**

Veto Number 5

HB 769: House Bill 769 changes the description of education districts in Schley County. The author of the legislation requested that House Bill 769 be vetoed because qualifying has already occurred under the existing districts. If the districts were to change after qualifying, it would incur a large cost on the Board of Education and on the taxpayers. Having reviewed the legislation and considered the request of the author of this legislation, **I VETO HB 769.**

Veto Number 6

HB 837: House Bill 837 provides updates and certain expansions to the role of private companies in the administration of probation services in Georgia. There is language in this legislation that would exempt certain key information about private probation services from the Georgia Open Records Act. I favor more transparency over private probation services and therefore I am not in favor of this information being exempt from the Georgia Open Records Act. In addition, it is my understanding that the Supreme Court of Georgia has under its consideration an appeal that would address the role of private probation services and, while the current law pertaining to private probation services remains in effect, this legislation seeks to have a preemptive impact on any decision in that appeal. With these considerations in mind, **I VETO House Bill 837.**

Veto Number 7

HB 858: House Bill 858 authorizes the Recorder's Court of Columbus to levy up to a \$25 technology fee to each fine imposed. In 2013, I signed legislation authorizing the Recorder's Court of Columbus to levy up to a \$15 technology fee. A \$25 fee is excessive compared to similar court fees across the state and I am concerned that such a fee increase would set an unacceptable precedent for other similar courts. For this reason, **I VETO HB 858.**

Veto Number 8 and 9

HB 905 and HB 906: House Bills 905 and 906 are bills that update the territorial boundaries for the City of Brookhaven and the City of Chamblee. Currently, there is pending litigation involving the property at issue in this legislation and this legislation could pre-empt that process. For this reason, **I VETO HB 905 and HB 906.**

Veto Number 10

HB 1146: House Bill 1146 would allow state funds appropriated to the Effingham County Board of Education to be used for the compensation of board members. Current state law and current rules of the State Board of Education dictate that compensation of local board members be through local tax revenues. Past local legislation affecting school board compensation does not include language which name state appropriations as an appropriate fund source. Because state appropriations are not an appropriate source for local board of education compensation funding, **I hereby VETO House Bill 1146.**

House of Representatives
Administration Floor Leader
109 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

November 7, 2014

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Governor, State of Georgia
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal,

I was proud to accept your offer to fill the position of Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue for your second term of office.

My acceptance of your offer necessitates my withdrawal as a candidate prior to taking office as the member of the Georgia House of Representatives for District 50, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-504.

I withdraw on this date in hopes that the House District 50 seat may be filled in an expedient manner, potentially prior to the commencement of the 2015 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

I am deeply grateful to you for the honor you have bestowed upon me to serve the citizens of Georgia in this role.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lynne Riley
Representative Lynne Riley

CC: Honorable Brian Kemp
Georgia Secretary of State

State of Georgia
Office of the Governor
Atlanta 30334-0900

November 7, 2014

The Honorable Lynne Riley
Representative, District 50
Georgia House of Representatives
10605 Wren Ridge Road
Johns Creek, Georgia 30022

Dear Representative Riley:

Thank you for the service you have rendered as the District 50 Representative in the Georgia House of Representatives. I appreciate you apprising me of your resignation, effective November 7, 2014.

Your withdrawal is hereby accepted, and I wish you all the best. Once again, thank you for your dedicated service to the citizens of Fulton County and State of Georgia.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nathan Deal

ND:rb

cc: The Honorable Brian Kemp, Secretary of State
The Honorable David Ralston, Speaker, Georgia House of Representatives
Mr. Bill Reilly, Clerk, Georgia House of Representatives

House of Representatives
133 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

November 24, 2014

Honorable Nathan Deal
Governor, State of Georgia
State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

Due to health reasons, I am withdrawing as a candidate prior to taking office as the member of the Georgia House of Representatives for District 120, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-504.

I withdraw on this date in hopes that the House District 120 seat may be filled in an expedient manner, potentially prior to the commencement of the 2015 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

The decision was not taken lightly. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the people of my district and the state of Georgia.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as a representative under your leadership.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mickey Channell
R. M. "Mickey" Channell
Representative, District 120

cc: Honorable Brian Kemp, Secretary of State
Honorable David Ralston, Speaker
Mr. Bill Reilly, Clerk

MEMO

TO: Members of the Georgia House of Representatives

FROM: Speaker David Ralston

DATE: December 2, 2014

Pursuant to House Rule 12, I am today creating and appointing a Committee on Assignments for 2015-2016.

In addition to the Speaker and Majority Leader, who serve by operation of Rule 12.2, the following members are hereby appointed to the Committee on Assignments.

Speaker Pro-Tem Jan Jones
Majority Caucus Chairman Matt Hatchett
Majority Caucus Whip Matt Ramsey
Majority Caucus Vice-Chairman Sam Teasley
Majority Caucus Secretary-Treasurer Allen Peake
Chairman Jon Burns
Chairman Amy Carter
Chairman Sharon Cooper
Chairman Tom Dickson
Chairman Terry England
Chairman Rich Golick
Chairman Mark Hamilton
Chairman Penny Houston
Chairman Earl Ehrhart
Chairman John Meadows
Chairman Jay Powell
Chairman Jay Roberts
Chairman Ed Rynders
Chairman Richard Smith
Chairman Lynn Smith
Chairman Ron Stephens

State of Georgia
Office of the Governor
Atlanta 30334-0090

December 30, 2014

Mr. Bill Reilly
Clerk of the House
Georgia House of Representatives
309 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my selection of the Honorable Christian Coomer, the Honorable Robert Dickey, the Honorable Chad Nimmer, and the Honorable Terry Rogers as my Floor Leaders in the Georgia House of Representatives during the 2015 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. Please afford them all due rights and compensation in accordance with these positions, effective immediately.

If I can be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nathan Deal

ND:rb

cc: Ms. Jennifer Sanders, Legislative Fiscal Officer

House Majority Caucus
415 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

January 5, 2015

Clerk of the House
309 State Capitol Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Clerk:

The House Majority Caucus held Caucus elections November 10, 2014. The following members were elected/re-elected to serve the 2015-2016 Legislative term.

Speaker: Rep. David Ralston, HD 7
Speaker Pro Tem: Rep. Jan Jones, HD 47

Majority Caucus Leader: Rep. Larry O'Neal, HD 146
 Majority Caucus Whip: Rep. Matt Ramsey, HD 72
 Majority Caucus Chair: Rep. Matt Hatchett, HD 150
 Majority Caucus Vice-Chair: Rep. Sam Teasley, HD 37
 Majority Caucus Secretary/Treasurer: Rep. Allen Peake, HD 141

Best regards,

/s/ J. Matt Hatchett
 Matt Hatchett, Chair
 House Majority Caucus

House of Representatives
 Coverdell Legislative Office Building, Room 409 A
 Atlanta, Georgia 30334

January 5, 2015

Mr. Bill Reilly
 Clerk of the House
 309 State Capitol
 Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Reilly:

It is the beginning of another Legislative Session where we will be working for all the citizens of Georgia. I am pleased to share the House Democratic Caucus 2015 and 2016 Leadership. It is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Representative Stacey Abrams | Minority Leader |
| • Representative Carolyn Hugley | Minority Whip |
| • Representative Virgil L. Fludd | Minority Caucus Chairman |
| • Representative Billy Mitchell | Minority Caucus Vice Chairman |
| • Representative Pat Gardner | Minority Caucus Secretary |
| • Representative David Wilkerson | Minority Caucus Treasurer |
| • Representative Simone Bell | Minority Deputy Whip |

Looking forward to a successful year as we continue to serve the people of Georgia.

Sincerely,

/s/ Virgil L. Fludd
State Representative, District 64

OFFICIAL OATH OF GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE DISTRICT 154
GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of this State and of the United States and, on all questions and measures which may come before me, I will so conduct myself as will, in my judgment, be most conducive to the interests and prosperity of this state.

I further swear or affirm that I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof, that I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state, that I have been a resident of my district for the time required by the Constitution and the laws of this state, and that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

SO HELP ME GOD.

LOYALTY OATH

I am a citizen of the State of Georgia and a member of the General Assembly and the recipient of public funds for services rendered as such officer and I do hereby solemnly swear and affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia.

SO HELP ME GOD.

/s/ Rep. Winfred Dukes
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Sworn to and subscribed before me,

This 12th day of January, 2015.

/s/ Denise Marshall
Judge, Dougherty Superior Court

The roll was called and the following Representatives answered to their names:

Abrams	Coomer	Harbin	McClain	Smith, L
Alexander	Cooper	Harden	Meadows	Smith, M
Allison	Corbett	Harrell	Mitchell	Smith, R
Anderson	Dawkins-Haigler	Hatchett	Morris	Smyre
Atwood	Deffenbaugh	Hawkins	Mosby	Spencer
Ballinger	Dempsey	Henson	Nimmer	Stephens, M
Barr	Dickerson	Hightower	Oliver	Stephens, R
Battles	Dickey	Hitchens	O'Neal	Stephenson
Beasley-Teague	Dickson	Holcomb	Pak	Stovall
Bell	Dollar	Holmes	Parrish	Stover
Belton	Douglas	Houston	Parsons	Strickland
Bennett	Drenner	Howard	Peake	Tankersley
Bentley	Dudgeon	Hugley	Petrea	Tanner
Benton	E Dukes	Jackson	Pezold	Tarvin
Beskin	Dunahoo	Jacobs	Powell, A	Taylor, D
Beverly	Duncan	Jasperse	Powell, J	Taylor, T
Broadrick	Ealum	Jones, J	Prince	Teasley
Brockway	Efstration	Jones, J.B.	Pruett	Thomas, A.M.
Brooks	Ehrhart	Jones, L	Quick	Thomas, E
Bruce	England	Jones, S	Rakestraw	Trammell
Bryant	Epps	Jordan	Ramsey	Turner
Buckner	Evans	Kaiser	Randall	Waites
Burns	Fleming	Kelley	Reeves	Watson
Caldwell, J	Floyd	Kendrick	Rice	Welch
Caldwell, M	Fludd	Kidd	Roberts	Weldon
Cantrell	Frazier	Kirby	Rogers, C	Werkheiser
Carson	Frye	Knight	Rogers, T	Wilkerson
Carter	Gardner	LaRiccica	Rutledge	Wilkinson
Casas	Gasaway	Lumsden	Rynders	Willard
Chandler	Geisinger	Mabra	Scott	Williams, A
Cheokas	Glanton	Marin	Setzler	Williams, C
Clark, D	Golick	Martin	Sharper	Williams, E
Clark, H	Gordon	Maxwell	Shaw	Williamson
Clark, V	Gravley	Mayo	Sims	Yates
Coleman	Greene	McCall	Smith, E	Ralston, Speaker
Cooke	Hamilton			

The following member was off the floor of the House when the roll was called:

Representative Nix of the 69th.

He wished to be recorded as present.

The following oath of office was administered to the Representatives-elect by the Honorable Mandy Mercier, Judge, Superior Court, Appalachian Judicial Circuit.

"I do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of this State and of the United States and, on all questions and measures which may come before me,

I will so conduct myself, as will, in my judgment, be most conducive to the interests and prosperity of this state.

I further swear or affirm that I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof, that I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state, that I have been a resident of my district for the time required by the Constitution and the laws of this state, and that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

SO HELP ME GOD.

LOYALTY OATH

I am a citizen of the State of Georgia and a member of the General Assembly and the recipient of public funds for services rendered as such officer and I do hereby solemnly swear and affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Georgia.

SO HELP ME GOD."

The next order of business being the election of the Speaker of the House for the 2015-2016 term, Representative O`Neal of the 146th placed in nomination the name of the Honorable David Ralston of the 7th, which nomination was seconded by Representative Meadows of the 5th.

Representative Hatchett of the 150th moved that the nominations be closed.

The motion prevailed.

The election of the Speaker was ordered on the roll call machine. Those voting for the Honorable David Ralston of the 7th voted "aye," those opposed voted "nay."

The vote was as follows:

N Abrams	Y Coomer	Y Harbin	Y Meadows	Y Smith, M
Y Alexander	Y Cooper	Y Harden	Y Mitchell	Y Smith, R
Y Allison	Y Corbett	Y Harrell	Y Morris	Y Smyre
Y Anderson	Y Dawkins-Haigler	Y Hatchett	Y Mosby	Y Spencer
Y Atwood	Y Deffenbaugh	Y Hawkins	Y Nimmer	Y Stephens, M
Y Ballinger	Y Dempsey	Y Henson	Y Nix	Y Stephens, R
Y Barr	Y Dickerson	Y Hightower	Y Oliver	Y Stephenson
Y Battles	Y Dickey	Y Hitchens	Y O'Neal	Y Stovall
Y Beasley-Teague	Y Dickson	Y Holcomb	Y Pak	Y Stover
N Bell	Y Dollar	Y Holmes	Y Parrish	Y Strickland

Y Belton	Y Douglas	Y Houston	Y Parsons	Y Tankersley
Y Bennett	Y Drenner	Y Howard	Y Peake	Y Tanner
Y Bentley	Y Dudgeon	N Hugley	Y Petrea	Y Tarvin
Y Benton	E Dukes	Y Jackson	Y Pezold	Y Taylor, D
Y Beskin	Y Dunahoo	Y Jacobs	Y Powell, A	Y Taylor, T
Y Beverly	Y Duncan	Y Jasperse	Y Powell, J	Y Teasley
Y Broadrick	Y Ealum	Y Jones, J	Y Prince	Y Thomas, A.M.
Y Brockway	Y Efstration	Y Jones, J.B.	Y Pruett	Y Thomas, E
Y Brooks	Y Ehrhart	Y Jones, L	Y Quick	Y Trammell
Y Bruce	Y England	Y Jones, S	Y Rakestraw	Y Turner
Y Bryant	Y Epps	Y Jordan	Y Ramsey	Vacant, 120th
Y Buckner	Y Evans	Y Kaiser	Y Randall	Vacant, 50th
Y Burns	Y Fleming	Y Kelley	Y Reeves	Y Waites
Y Caldwell, J	Y Floyd	Y Kendrick	Y Rice	Y Watson
Y Caldwell, M	N Fludd	Y Kidd	Y Roberts	Y Welch
Y Cantrell	Y Frazier	Y Kirby	Y Rogers, C	Y Weldon
Y Carson	Y Frye	Y Knight	Y Rogers, T	Y Werkheiser
Y Carter	Y Gardner	Y LaRiccia	Y Rutledge	N Wilkerson
Y Casas	Y Gasaway	Y Lumsden	Y Rynders	Y Wilkinson
Y Chandler	Y Geisinger	Y Mabra	Y Scott	Y Willard
Y Cheokas	Y Glanton	Y Marin	Y Setzler	Y Williams, A
Y Clark, D	Y Golick	Y Martin	Y Sharper	Y Williams, C
Y Clark, H	Y Gordon	Y Maxwell	Y Shaw	N Williams, E
Y Clark, V	Y Gravley	Y Mayo	Y Sims	Y Williamson
Y Coleman	Y Greene	Y McCall	Y Smith, E	Y Yates
Y Cooke	Y Hamilton	Y McClain	Y Smith, L	Ralston, Speaker

On the election of the Speaker, the Honorable David Ralston of the 7th received 170 votes.

The Honorable David Ralston of the 7th, having received the majority of the votes cast, was thereby declared elected Speaker of the House for the ensuing term.

The Chair appointed as a Committee to escort the Speaker to the Speaker's stand the following members:

Representatives Efstration of the 104th, Hatchett of the 150th, Epps of the 144th, Kelley of the 16th, Rogers of the 10th, Cheokas of the 138th, Dollar of the 45th, Jasperse of the 11th, Hawkins of the 27th, Ballinger of the 23rd, and Tankersley of the 160th.

The Honorable David Ralston of the 7th was escorted to the Speaker's stand whereupon he assumed the Chair and thanked the members for having elected him Speaker.

The next order of business being the election of the Speaker Pro Tem for the House for the 2015-2016 term, Representative Dickey of the 140th placed in nomination the name of the Honorable Jan Jones of the 47th, which nomination was seconded by Representative Tanner of the 9th.

Representative O`Neal of the 146th moved that the nominations be closed.

The motion prevailed.

The election of the Speaker Pro Tem was ordered on the roll call machine. Those voting for the Honorable Jan Jones of the 47th voted "aye," those opposed voted "nay."

The vote was as follows:

N Abrams	Y Coomer	Y Harbin	Y Meadows	Y Smith, M
Y Alexander	Y Cooper	Y Harden	N Mitchell	Y Smith, R
Y Allison	Y Corbett	Y Harrell	Y Morris	Y Smyre
Y Anderson	Y Dawkins-Haigler	Y Hatchett	Y Mosby	Y Spencer
Y Atwood	Y Deffenbaugh	Y Hawkins	Y Nimmer	Y Stephens, M
Y Ballinger	Y Dempsey	Y Henson	Y Nix	Y Stephens, R
Y Barr	Y Dickerson	Y Hightower	Y Oliver	Y Stephenson
Y Battles	Y Dickey	Y Hitchens	Y O'Neal	Y Stovall
Y Beasley-Teague	Y Dickson	N Holcomb	Y Pak	Y Stover
N Bell	Y Dollar	Y Holmes	Y Parrish	Y Strickland
Y Belton	Y Douglas	Y Houston	Y Parsons	Y Tankersley
Y Bennett	Y Drenner	Y Howard	Y Peake	Y Tanner
Y Bentley	Y Dudgeon	N Hugley	Y Petrea	Y Tarvin
Y Benton	E Dukes	Y Jackson	Y Pezold	Y Taylor, D
Y Beskin	Y Dunahoo	Y Jacobs	Y Powell, A	Y Taylor, T
Y Beverly	Y Duncan	Y Jasperse	Y Powell, J	Y Teasley
Y Broadrick	Y Ealum	Y Jones, J	Y Prince	Y Thomas, A.M.
Y Brockway	Y Efrstration	Y Jones, J.B.	Y Pruett	Y Thomas, E
Y Brooks	Y Ehrhart	Y Jones, L	Y Quick	Y Trammell
Y Bruce	Y England	Y Jones, S	Y Rakestraw	Y Turner
Y Bryant	Y Epps	Y Jordan	Y Ramsey	Vacant, 120th
Y Buckner	Y Evans	Y Kaiser	Y Randall	Vacant, 50th
Y Burns	Y Fleming	Y Kelley	Y Reeves	Y Waites
Y Caldwell, J	Y Floyd	Y Kendrick	Y Rice	Y Watson
Y Caldwell, M	N Fludd	Y Kidd	Y Roberts	Y Welch
Y Cantrell	Y Frazier	Y Kirby	Y Rogers, C	Y Weldon
Y Carson	Y Frye	Y Knight	Y Rogers, T	Y Werkheiser
Y Carter	N Gardner	Y LaRiccica	Y Rutledge	N Wilkerson
Y Casas	Y Gasaway	Y Lumsden	Y Rynders	Y Wilkinson
Y Chandler	Y Geisinger	Y Mabra	Y Scott	Y Willard
Y Cheokas	Y Glanton	Y Marin	Y Setzler	Y Williams, A
Y Clark, D	Y Golick	Y Martin	Y Sharper	Y Williams, C
Y Clark, H	Y Gordon	Y Maxwell	Y Shaw	N Williams, E
Y Clark, V	Y Gravley	Y Mayo	Y Sims	Y Williamson
Y Coleman	Y Greene	Y McCall	Y Smith, E	Y Yates
Y Cooke	Y Hamilton	Y McClain	Y Smith, L	Y Ralston, Speaker

On the election of the Speaker Pro Tem, the Honorable Jan Jones of the 47th received 168 votes.

The Honorable Jan Jones of the 47th, having received the majority of the votes cast, was thereby declared elected Speaker Pro Tem of the House for the ensuing term.

The Speaker appointed as a committee to escort the Speaker Pro Tem to the Speaker's stand the following members:

Representatives Clark of the 101st, Cooper of the 43rd, Harbin of the 122nd, Harden of the 148th, Setzler of the 35th, Pak of the 108th, Parrish of the 158th, and Quick of the 117th.

The Honorable Jan Jones of the 47th was escorted to the Speaker's stand where she addressed the House expressing her appreciation to the members for having elected her Speaker Pro Tem of the House of Representatives.

The next order of business being the election of the Clerk of the House for the 2015-2016 term, Representative Roberts of the 155th placed in nomination the name of the Honorable William L. Reilly of Fannin County, which nomination was seconded by Representative Oliver of the 82nd.

Representative O`Neal of the 146th moved that the nominations be closed.

The election of the Clerk was ordered on the roll call machine. Those voting for the Honorable William L. Reilly voted "aye," those opposed voted "nay."

The vote was as follows:

Y Abrams	Y Coomer	Y Harbin	Y Meadows	Y Smith, M
Y Alexander	Y Cooper	Y Harden	Y Mitchell	Y Smith, R
Y Allison	Y Corbett	Y Harrell	Y Morris	Y Smyre
Y Anderson	Y Dawkins-Haigler	Y Hatchett	Y Mosby	Y Spencer
Y Atwood	Y Deffenbaugh	Y Hawkins	Y Nimmer	Y Stephens, M
Y Ballinger	Y Dempsey	Y Henson	Y Nix	Y Stephens, R
Y Barr	Y Dickerson	Y Hightower	Y Oliver	Y Stephenson
Y Battles	Y Dickey	Y Hitchens	Y O'Neal	Y Stovall
Y Beasley-Teague	Y Dickson	Y Holcomb	Y Pak	Y Stover
Y Bell	Y Dollar	Y Holmes	Y Parrish	Y Strickland
Y Belton	Y Douglas	Y Houston	Y Parsons	Y Tankersley
Y Bennett	Y Drenner	Y Howard	Y Peake	Y Tanner
Y Bentley	Y Dudgeon	Y Hugley	Y Petrea	Y Tarvin
Y Benton	E Dukes	Jackson	Y Pezold	Y Taylor, D
Y Beskin	Y Dunahoo	Y Jacobs	Y Powell, A	Y Taylor, T
Y Beverly	Y Duncan	Y Jasperse	Y Powell, J	Y Teasley
Y Broadrick	Y Ealum	Y Jones, J	Y Prince	Y Thomas, A.M.
Y Brockway	Y Efstoration	Y Jones, J.B.	Y Pruett	Y Thomas, E
Y Brooks	Y Ehrhart	Y Jones, L	Y Quick	Y Trammell
Y Bruce	Y England	Y Jones, S	Y Rakestraw	Y Turner
Y Bryant	Y Epps	Y Jordan	Y Ramsey	Vacant, 120th
Y Buckner	Y Evans	Y Kaiser	Y Randall	Vacant, 50th
Y Burns	Y Fleming	Y Kelley	Y Reeves	Y Waites
Y Caldwell, J	Y Floyd	Y Kendrick	Y Rice	Y Watson
Y Caldwell, M	Y Fludd	Y Kidd	Y Roberts	Y Welch
Y Cantrell	Y Frazier	Y Kirby	Y Rogers, C	Y Weldon

Y Carson	Y Frye	Y Knight	Y Rogers, T	Y Werkheiser
Y Carter	Y Gardner	Y LaRiccia	Y Rutledge	Y Wilkerson
Y Casas	Y Gasaway	Y Lumsden	Y Rynders	Y Wilkinson
Y Chandler	Y Geisinger	Y Mabra	Y Scott	Y Willard
Y Cheokas	Y Glanton	Y Marin	Y Setzler	Y Williams, A
Y Clark, D	Y Golick	Y Martin	Y Sharper	Y Williams, C
Y Clark, H	Y Gordon	Y Maxwell	Y Shaw	Y Williams, E
Y Clark, V	Y Gravley	Y Mayo	Y Sims	Y Williamson
Y Coleman	Y Greene	Y McCall	Y Smith, E	Y Yates
Y Cooke	Y Hamilton	Y McClain	Y Smith, L	Y Ralston, Speaker

On the election of the Clerk of the House, The Honorable William L. Reilly received 176 votes.

The Honorable William L. Reilly was thereby declared elected Clerk of the House for the ensuing term.

The Speaker appointed as a Committee to escort the Clerk to the Speaker's stand the following members:

Representatives Jasperse of the 11th, Powell of the 32nd, Cooper of the 43rd, Holcomb of the 81st, Kaiser of the 59th, and Bryant of the 162nd.

The following oath of office was administered to the Honorable William L. Reilly, Clerk of the House, by Representative David Ralston of the 7th, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

I hereby swear that I will discharge the duties of the office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge. I further swear that I am not the holder of any public money due this State or any political subdivision or authority thereof, unaccounted for, that I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, nor of any one of the several states, nor of any foreign state, that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia; and that I am not a member of the communist party.

So help me God.

The Clerk addressed the House expressing his appreciation to the members for having elected him Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The next order of business being the election of the Doorkeeper of the House for the 2015-2016 term, Representative Epps of the 144th placed in nomination the name of the Honorable Phil Tucker of Douglas County, which nomination was seconded by Representative Abrams of the 89th.

Representative O`Neal of the 146th moved that the nominations be closed.

The election of the Doorkeeper was ordered on the roll call machine. Those voting for the Honorable Phil Tucker voted "aye," and those opposed voted "nay."

The vote was as follows:

Y Abrams	Y Coomer	Y Harbin	Y Meadows	Y Smith, M
Y Alexander	Y Cooper	Y Harden	Y Mitchell	Y Smith, R
Y Allison	Y Corbett	Y Harrell	Y Morris	Y Smyre
Y Anderson	Y Dawkins-Haigler	Y Hatchett	Y Mosby	Y Spencer
Y Atwood	Y Deffenbaugh	Y Hawkins	Y Nimmer	Y Stephens, M
Y Ballinger	Y Dempsey	Y Henson	Y Nix	Y Stephens, R
Y Barr	Y Dickerson	Y Hightower	Y Oliver	Y Stephenson
Y Battles	Y Dickey	Y Hitchens	Y O'Neal	Y Stovall
Y Beasley-Teague	Y Dickson	Y Holcomb	Y Pak	Y Stover
Y Bell	Y Dollar	Y Holmes	Y Parrish	Y Strickland
Y Belton	Y Douglas	Y Houston	Y Parsons	Y Tankersley
Y Bennett	Y Drenner	Y Howard	Y Peake	Y Tanner
Y Bentley	Y Dudgeon	Y Hugley	Y Petrea	Y Tarvin
Y Benton	E Dukes	Y Jackson	Y Pezold	Y Taylor, D
Y Beskin	Y Dunahoo	Y Jacobs	Y Powell, A	Y Taylor, T
Y Beverly	Y Duncan	Y Jasperse	Y Powell, J	Y Teasley
Y Broadrick	Y Ealum	Y Jones, J	Y Prince	Y Thomas, A.M.
Y Brockway	Y Efrstration	Y Jones, J.B.	Y Pruett	Y Thomas, E
Y Brooks	Y Ehrhart	Y Jones, L	Y Quick	Y Trammell
Y Bruce	Y England	Y Jones, S	Y Rakestraw	Y Turner
Y Bryant	Y Epps	Y Jordan	Y Ramsey	Vacant, 120th
Y Buckner	Y Evans	Y Kaiser	Y Randall	Vacant, 50th
Y Burns	Y Fleming	Y Kelley	Y Reeves	Y Waites
Y Caldwell, J	Floyd	Y Kendrick	Y Rice	Y Watson
Y Caldwell, M	Fludd	Y Kidd	Y Roberts	Y Welch
Y Cantrell	Y Frazier	Y Kirby	Y Rogers, C	Y Weldon
Y Carson	Y Frye	Y Knight	Y Rogers, T	Y Werkheiser
Y Carter	Y Gardner	Y LaRiccica	Y Rutledge	Y Wilkerson
Y Casas	Y Gasaway	Y Lumsden	Y Rynders	Y Wilkinson
Y Chandler	Y Geisinger	Y Mabra	Y Scott	Y Willard
Y Cheokas	Y Glanton	Y Marin	Y Setzler	Y Williams, A
Y Clark, D	Y Golick	Y Martin	Y Sharper	Y Williams, C
Y Clark, H	Y Gordon	Y Maxwell	Y Shaw	Y Williams, E
Y Clark, V	Y Gravley	Y Mayo	Y Sims	Y Williamson
Y Coleman	Y Greene	Y McCall	Y Smith, E	Y Yates
Y Cooke	Y Hamilton	Y McClain	Y Smith, L	Ralston, Speaker

On the election of the Doorkeeper of the House, The Honorable Phil Tucker received 174 votes.

The Honorable Phil Tucker was thereby declared elected Doorkeeper of the House for the ensuing term.

The Honorable Phil Tucker was escorted to the Speaker's stand where he expressed his appreciation to the members for having elected him as Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.

The next order of business being the election of the Messenger of the House for the 2015-2016 term, Representative England of the 116th placed in nomination the name of the Honorable Betsy Lynch of Cobb County, which nomination was seconded by Representative Peake of the 141st.

Representative O'Neal of the 146th moved that the nominations be closed.

The election of the Messenger was ordered on the roll call machine. Those voting for the Honorable Betsy Lynch voted "aye," those opposed voted "nay."

The vote was as follows:

Y Abrams	Y Coomer	Y Harbin	Y Meadows	Y Smith, M
Y Alexander	Y Cooper	Y Harden	Y Mitchell	Y Smith, R
Y Allison	Y Corbett	Y Harrell	Y Morris	Y Smyre
Y Anderson	Y Dawkins-Haigler	Y Hatchett	Y Mosby	Y Spencer
Y Atwood	Y Deffenbaugh	Y Hawkins	Y Nimmer	Stephens, M
Y Ballinger	Y Dempsey	Y Henson	Y Nix	Y Stephens, R
Y Barr	Y Dickerson	Y Hightower	Y Oliver	Y Stephenson
Y Battles	Y Dickey	Y Hitchens	Y O'Neal	Y Stovall
Y Beasley-Teague	Y Dickson	Y Holcomb	Y Pak	Y Stover
Y Bell	Y Dollar	Y Holmes	Y Parrish	Y Strickland
Y Belton	Y Douglas	Y Houston	Y Parsons	Y Tankersley
Y Bennett	Y Drenner	Y Howard	Y Peake	Y Tanner
Y Bentley	Y Dudgeon	Y Hugley	Y Petrea	Y Tarvin
Y Benton	E Dukes	Y Jackson	Y Pezold	Y Taylor, D
Y Beskin	Y Dunahoo	Y Jacobs	Y Powell, A	Y Taylor, T
Y Beverly	Y Duncan	Y Jasperse	Y Powell, J	Y Teasley
Y Broadrick	Y Ealum	Y Jones, J	Y Prince	Y Thomas, A.M.
Y Brockway	Y Efrstration	Y Jones, J.B.	Y Pruett	Y Thomas, E
Y Brooks	Y Ehrhart	Y Jones, L	Y Quick	Y Trammell
Y Bruce	Y England	Y Jones, S	Y Rakestraw	Y Turner
Y Bryant	Y Epps	Y Jordan	Y Ramsey	Vacant, 120th
Y Buckner	Y Evans	Y Kaiser	Y Randall	Vacant, 50th
Y Burns	Y Fleming	Y Kelley	Y Reeves	Y Waites
Y Caldwell, J	Floyd	Y Kendrick	Y Rice	Y Watson
Y Caldwell, M	Fludd	Y Kidd	Y Roberts	Y Welch
Y Cantrell	Y Frazier	Y Kirby	Y Rogers, C	Y Weldon
Y Carson	Y Frye	Y Knight	Y Rogers, T	Y Werkheiser
Y Carter	Y Gardner	Y LaRiccica	Y Rutledge	Y Wilkerson
Y Casas	Y Gasaway	Y Lumsden	Y Rynders	Y Wilkinson
Y Chandler	Y Geisinger	Y Mabra	Y Scott	Y Willard
Y Cheokas	Y Glanton	Y Marin	Y Setzler	Y Williams, A
Y Clark, D	Y Golick	Y Martin	Y Sharper	Y Williams, C
Y Clark, H	Y Gordon	Y Maxwell	Y Shaw	Y Williams, E
Y Clark, V	Y Gravley	Y Mayo	Y Sims	Y Williamson
Y Coleman	Y Greene	Y McCall	Y Smith, E	Y Yates
Y Cooke	Y Hamilton	Y McClain	Y Smith, L	Ralston, Speaker

On the election of the Messenger of the House, The Honorable Betsy Lynch received 173 votes.

The Honorable Betsy Lynch was escorted to the Speaker's stand where she expressed her appreciation to the members for having elected her as Messenger of the House of Representatives.

The following Resolution of the House was read and adopted:

HR 6. By Representative O`Neal of the 146th

A RESOLUTION

To notify the Senate that the House of Representatives has convened; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the Clerk of the House is hereby instructed to notify the Senate that the House of Representatives has convened in regular session and is now ready for the transaction of business.

HR 7. By Representative O`Neal of the 146th

A RESOLUTION

Adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the Rules of the House of Representatives in effect at the adjournment of the 2014 Regular Session of the General Assembly are hereby adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 2015-2016 biennium of the General Assembly unless and until otherwise provided by resolution of the House of Representatives.

On the adoption of the Resolution, the roll call was ordered and the vote was as follows:

N Abrams	Y Coomer	Y Harbin	Y Meadows	N Smith, M
N Alexander	Y Cooper	Y Harden	N Mitchell	Y Smith, R
Y Allison	Y Corbett	Y Harrell	Y Morris	N Smyre
N Anderson	N Dawkins-Haigler	Y Hatchett	N Mosby	Y Spencer
Y Atwood	Y Deffenbaugh	Y Hawkins	Y Nimmer	N Stephens, M
Y Ballinger	Y Dempsey	N Henson	Y Nix	Y Stephens, R
Y Barr	N Dickerson	Y Hightower	N Oliver	N Stephenson
Y Battles	Y Dickey	Y Hitchens	Y O'Neal	Y Stovall
N Beasley-Teague	Y Dickson	N Holcomb	Y Pak	Y Stover
N Bell	Y Dollar	Y Holmes	Y Parrish	Y Strickland

Y Belton	N Douglas	Y Houston	Y Parsons	Y Tankersley
N Bennett	N Drenner	N Howard	Y Peake	Y Tanner
N Bentley	Y Dudgeon	N Hugley	Y Petrea	Y Tarvin
Y Benton	E Dukes	Y Jackson	Y Pezold	Y Taylor, D
Y Beskin	Y Dunahoo	Y Jacobs	Y Powell, A	Y Taylor, T
N Beverly	Y Duncan	Y Jasperse	Y Powell, J	Y Teasley
Y Broadrick	Y Ealum	Y Jones, J	N Prince	N Thomas, A.M.
Y Brockway	Y Efstrotation	Y Jones, J.B.	Y Pruett	N Thomas, E
N Brooks	Y Ehrhart	N Jones, L	Y Quick	N Trammell
N Bruce	Y England	Y Jones, S	Y Rakestraw	Y Turner
Y Bryant	Y Epps	N Jordan	Y Ramsey	Vacant, 120th
N Buckner	N Evans	N Kaiser	Randall	Vacant, 50th
Y Burns	Y Fleming	Y Kelley	Y Reeves	N Waites
Y Caldwell, J	N Floyd	N Kendrick	Y Rice	Y Watson
Y Caldwell, M	N Fludd	Y Kidd	Y Roberts	Y Welch
Y Cantrell	N Frazier	Y Kirby	Y Rogers, C	Y Weldon
Y Carson	N Frye	Y Knight	Y Rogers, T	Y Werkheiser
Y Carter	N Gardner	Y LaRiccia	Y Rutledge	N Wilkerson
Y Casas	Y Gasaway	Y Lumsden	Y Rynders	Y Wilkinson
Y Chandler	Y Geisinger	N Mabra	N Scott	Y Willard
Y Cheokas	N Glanton	N Marin	Y Setzler	N Williams, A
Y Clark, D	Y Golick	Y Martin	N Sharper	Y Williams, C
Y Clark, H	N Gordon	Y Maxwell	Y Shaw	N Williams, E
Y Clark, V	Y Gravley	N Mayo	Y Sims	Y Williamson
Y Coleman	Y Greene	Y McCall	N Smith, E	Y Yates
Y Cooke	Y Hamilton	N McClain	Y Smith, L	Ralston, Speaker

On the adoption of the Resolution, the ayes were 122, nays 53.

The Resolution was adopted.

The following Resolutions of the House were read and adopted:

HR 8. By Representative O`Neal of the 146th

A RESOLUTION

Relative to officials, employees, and committees in the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the following provisions shall be in effect during the 2015-2016 biennium of the General Assembly unless and until otherwise provided for by resolution of the House:

PART 1 SECTION 1-1.

(a) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated or otherwise available for the House of Representatives, the Speaker of the House is authorized to employ on behalf of the

House of Representatives a sergeant-at-arms, a postmaster or postmistress, assistant postmasters or assistant postmistresses, assistant doorkeepers, pages, aides, secretaries, stenographers, typists, clerks, porters, court reporters, consultants, and other necessary personnel; and the Speaker is authorized to provide offices for staff services for the House of Representatives and to employ personnel for said offices. The numbers and compensation of personnel so employed pursuant to this section shall be fixed by the Speaker within the limitations of funds appropriated or otherwise available for the operation of the House of Representatives. Personnel employed pursuant to this section may be employed on a permanent or temporary basis and on a part-time or full-time basis, as may be determined by the Speaker. The assignment and duties of personnel employed pursuant to this section shall be as determined by the Speaker; and any such personnel may be assigned to House officers, committees, committee officers, caucuses, and caucus officers as deemed appropriate by the Speaker, including without limitation assignment of aides to the Speaker Pro Tempore, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader.

(b) By agreement with the appropriate officer or officers of the Senate, the Speaker of the House may authorize the employment of joint staff and the establishment of joint offices of the General Assembly.

SECTION 1-2.

The Speaker is also authorized to secure the services of chaplains and interns and provide expense reimbursement allowances for them within the limitations of funds appropriated or otherwise available.

SECTION 1-3.

The Doorkeeper of the House and the Messenger of the House, who are elected by the House, shall be compensated in an amount to be fixed by the Speaker of the House.

PART 2

SECTION 2-1.

Subject to the availability of funds appropriated or otherwise available for the Clerk of the House's Office, the Clerk of the House is authorized to employ for the Clerk's office assistant clerks, reading clerks, calendar clerks, journal clerks, secretaries, copy readers, typists, Multilith operators, Xerox operators, collator operators, porter-machinists, roll-call operators, clerical assistants, terminal operators, camera operators, supply and mail clerks, document distributors, audio operators, porters, personnel to distribute bills and other materials for members, and other necessary personnel. The numbers and compensation of personnel employed pursuant to this section shall be fixed by the Clerk within the limitations of funds appropriated or otherwise available for the operation of the Clerk of the House's Office. Personnel employed pursuant to this section may be employed on a permanent or temporary basis and on a part-time or full-time basis, as may

be determined by the Clerk. The assignment and duties of personnel employed pursuant to this section shall be as determined by the Clerk.

SECTION 2-2.

Pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 28-3-23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the annual salary of the Clerk of the House shall be as determined by the Speaker. In addition to that amount, the Clerk shall also receive the same percentage salary increase provided in the General Appropriations Act when granted to other employees of the legislative branch of state government. During the Clerk's tenure of office, he or she may, at the discretion of the Speaker, also receive the same expense allowance and the same mileage allowance or travel allowance as received by members of the General Assembly for each day of service rendered by the Clerk.

PART 3

SECTION 3-1.

Subject to the availability of funds appropriated or otherwise available for the operation of the Speaker of the House's Office, the Speaker of the House is authorized to employ interns, aides, secretaries, stenographers, typists, consultants, and other necessary personnel. The numbers and compensation of personnel employed pursuant to this section shall be fixed by the Speaker within the limitations of funds appropriated or otherwise available for the operation of the Speaker of the House's Office. Personnel employed pursuant to this section may be employed on a permanent or temporary basis and on a part-time or full-time basis as may be determined by the Speaker. The assignment and duties of personnel employed pursuant to this section shall be as determined by the Speaker.

PART 4

SECTION 4-1.

During any day or period of time during which the General Assembly is not in session, including without limitation any day or period of adjournment during a regular or special session, each of the following officers shall be a committee of one for each day spent on official business: the Speaker of the House, the Speaker Pro Tempore, the Majority Leader, the Majority Whip, the Minority Leader, the Minority Whip, and the Administration Floor Leaders. For each such day spent on official business, each of such officers shall receive the expense, mileage, and travel allowances authorized by law for members of interim committees.

SECTION 4-2.

(a) During any day or period of time during which the General Assembly is not in session, including without limitation any day or period of adjournment during a regular or special session, each member of the House of Representatives is designated as a

committee of one for the purpose of carrying out legislative duties only within the State of Georgia. Subject to any limits established pursuant to Section 5-3 of this resolution, for each such day of service, each member shall receive the expense, mileage, and travel allowances authorized by law for legislative members of interim legislative committees.

(b) In addition to the days provided for in subsection (a) of this section and without counting toward the limit specified in said subsection (a), each member of the House is designated as a committee of one for the purpose of carrying out legislative duties on any weekday which: (1) is a one-day recess or adjournment during a regular session; and (2) occurs after Monday and prior to Friday. For each such day of service, each member shall receive the expense and travel allowances (not including mileage which shall be covered by the weekly round trip) for legislative members of interim legislative committees, if such member has engaged in legislative business on that day, but not otherwise.

SECTION 4-3.

Pursuant to the provisions of law, in addition to any other compensation they receive as members of the General Assembly, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader shall receive an amount of \$2,400.00 per annum, and the Administration Floor Leaders each shall receive an amount of \$1,200.00 per annum. Such amounts shall be received as salary, to be paid in equal monthly or semimonthly installments. Prior to serving as an Administration Floor Leader, a Representative must be certified as such by the Governor in writing to the Speaker of the House and the Clerk of the House.

PART 5

SECTION 5-1.

During any period or day of adjournment during a regular or special session, the Speaker is empowered to give authorization for standing committees of the House and such other committees as the Speaker might create to remain at the Capitol during any such period of time for the purpose of considering and studying proposed legislation and other matters. Members of such committees as shall be designated by the Speaker to remain at the Capitol shall receive the expense, mileage, and travel allowances authorized by law for members of interim committees.

SECTION 5-2.

The Speaker is authorized to appoint committees from the members of the House to serve as interim legislative study committees and for the purpose of performing such duties as the Speaker shall deem necessary. Such committees are authorized to serve during the interim, and the members thereof shall receive the expense, mileage, and travel allowances authorized by law for legislative members of interim legislative committees. The Speaker shall designate the chairperson of any such committee and shall prescribe the time for which any such committee is authorized to function. The Speaker is authorized to extend the time allowed for any committee, whether the committee is

created by resolution or by the Speaker. The Speaker is authorized to designate standing committees or any subcommittee thereof to function during the interim for the purpose of performing such duties as the Speaker shall deem necessary. The members of any such committee or subcommittee shall receive the expense, mileage, and travel allowances authorized by law for legislative members of interim legislative committees.

SECTION 5-3.

The Speaker shall be authorized to set limits on the number of days per year that a member shall receive the allowances authorized in Sections 4-2 (committee of one) and 5-2 (committee meetings during interim) of this resolution. For this purpose a year shall begin on the opening day of a regular session and end on the day prior to the opening day of the next regular session.

PART 6

SECTION 6-1.

The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of Parts 1, 4, and 5 of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated or otherwise available for the operation of the House of Representatives except that funds for any joint staff or joint offices under subsection (b) of Section 1-1 of this resolution shall come from ancillary funds of the General Assembly. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of Part 2 of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated or otherwise available for the operation of the Clerk of the House's Office. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of Part 3 of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated or otherwise available for the operation of the Speaker of the House's Office.

SECTION 6-2.

Any personnel employed pursuant to this resolution shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, and any such personnel may be discharged by the appointing authority with or without cause.

SECTION 6-3.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the House of Representatives.

HR 9. By Representative O`Neal of the 146th

A RESOLUTION

Calling a joint session of the House of Representatives and Senate for the purpose of the inauguration of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and other executive Constitutional Officers of the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the House of Representatives and Senate shall meet in joint session at 2:00 P.M., Monday, January 12, 2015, on Liberty Plaza opposite the State Capitol for the purpose of inaugurating the Honorable Nathan Deal as Governor, inaugurating the Honorable Casey Cagle as Lieutenant Governor, and inaugurating those other executive Constitutional Officers of the State of Georgia identified in Article V, Section III, Paragraph I of the Constitution of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if, in the determination of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, conducting such joint session on Liberty Plaza is not practical due to inclement weather or other good cause, then such joint session shall be conducted in the chamber of the House of Representatives on the same date and at the same time specified above.

Representative O`Neal of the 146th asked unanimous consent that HR 9 be immediately transmitted to the Senate.

It was so ordered.

HR 10. By Representative O`Neal of the 146th

A RESOLUTION

Calling a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the purpose of hearing a message from the Governor; inviting the Justices of the Supreme Court and the Judges of the Court of Appeals to be present at the joint session; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that His Excellency, Governor Nathan Deal, is hereby invited to address a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate at 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, January 14, 2015, in the hall of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate be held in the hall of the House of Representatives at 10:45 A.M. on the aforesaid date for the purpose of hearing an address from His Excellency, the Governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a committee of fourteen, seven from the House to be named by the Speaker and seven from the Senate to be named by the President of the Senate, be appointed to escort His Excellency, the Governor, to the hall of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Justices of the Supreme Court and the Judges of the Court of Appeals are hereby extended an invitation to be present at the joint session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House is hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, to each Justice of the Supreme Court, and to each Judge of the Court of Appeals.

HR 11. By Representative O`Neal of the 146th

A RESOLUTION

Calling a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the purpose of hearing a message from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; inviting each other Justice of the Supreme Court and each Judge of the Court of Appeals to be present at the joint session; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the honorable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is hereby invited to address a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate at 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, February 4, 2015, in the hall of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate be held in the hall of the House of Representatives at 10:45 A.M. on the aforesaid date for the purpose of hearing an address from the Chief Justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each other Justice of the Supreme Court and each Judge of the Court of Appeals is hereby invited to the hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing the address from the Chief Justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Chief Justice, to each other Justice of the Supreme Court, and to each Judge of the Court of Appeals.

The following Resolutions of the House were read and referred to the Committee on Rules:

HR 12. By Representatives Carter of the 175th, Ralston of the 7th, England of the 116th, McCall of the 33rd, Dickson of the 6th and others:

A RESOLUTION commending the Georgia FFA Association and inviting members to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

HR 13. By Representative Cheokas of the 138th:

A RESOLUTION commending Skyler McAllister and Jordan Moses, members of the 2013-2014 Marion County High School Literary Team in its Boys Quartet State Championship, and Anastasia Daniels, member of the Girls Trio in its Region 1-A Championship, and inviting them to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

The following Resolution of the House, referred to the House Rules Subcommittee on Invites, was reported by the Committee on Rules with the following recommendation:

HR 12 Do Pass

The following Resolution of the House, favorably reported by the Committee on Rules, was read and adopted:

HR 12. By Representatives Carter of the 175th, Ralston of the 7th, England of the 116th, McCall of the 33rd, Dickson of the 6th and others:

A RESOLUTION commending the Georgia FFA Association and inviting members to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

The following member was recognized during the period of Morning Orders and addressed the House:

Representative Stovall of the 74th.

The following messages were received from the Senate through Mr. Cook, the Secretary thereof:

Mr. Speaker:

The Senate has adopted by the requisite constitutional majority the following resolution of the Senate:

SR 2. By Senators Shafer of the 48th, Cowser of the 46th and Henson of the 41st:

A RESOLUTION to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate has convened; and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker:

The Senate has adopted by the requisite constitutional majority the following resolution of the Senate:

SR 3. By Senators Shafer of the 48th, Cowser of the 46th and Henson of the 41st:

A RESOLUTION to notify the Governor that the General Assembly has convened; and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker:

The Senate has adopted by the requisite constitutional majority the following resolution of the House:

HR 9. By Representative O'Neal of the 146th:

A RESOLUTION calling a joint session of the House of Representatives and Senate for the purpose of the inauguration of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and other executive Constitutional Officers of the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

The following Resolution of the Senate was read and adopted:

SR 3. By Senators Shafer of the 48th, Cowser of the 46th and Henson of the 41st:

A RESOLUTION to notify the Governor that the General Assembly has convened; and for other purposes.

The Speaker announced the House in recess until the hour of convening the Joint Session pursuant to HR 9.

The hour of convening the Joint Session pursuant to HR 9 having arrived, the members of the House and Senate met for the purpose of inaugurating the Honorable Nathan Deal as Governor and the Honorable Casey Cagle as Lieutenant Governor.

The inaugural program was as follows:

The Inauguration of
Nathan Deal
and the Constitutional Officers
of the
State of Georgia
January the Twelfth, Two Thousand and Fifteen

The 82nd Governor of Georgia

Nathan Deal

Under Gov. Nathan Deal's leadership, Georgia has risen to become the No. 1 place in the nation in which to do business, a goal achieved by creating the Competitiveness Initiative, reforming our tax code, shaping our educational system to support our workforce needs and recruiting businesses to relocate here.

As Georgia's 82nd governor since January 2011, he has cut state taxes, eliminated state agencies, reduced the state government workforce, saved HOPE from the brink of bankruptcy, championed education innovations and implemented significant cost-saving reforms in our criminal justice system. He fought to increase public safety on our waterways, improved our workforce by aiding veterans and technical college students and enacted stricter rules on lobbying to boost public trust.

Though he has reduced the size of state government, Gov. Deal has prioritized education and child safety funding as state revenues rebound from the Great Recession. In 2014, the governor increased k-12 spending by more than half a billion dollars, the largest funding increase in education in seven years. As concerned about our children's safety as he is about their education, Gov. Deal has also started a three-year plan to add nearly 500 new child welfare case workers at DFCS.

Gov. Deal's public service to his state spans four decades. The Sandersville native served in the U.S. Army at Fort Gordon in Augusta after graduating with a law degree from Mercer University, and then began a private law practice in Gainesville, the hometown of his wife, Sandra Dunagan Deal. While his wife taught in Hall County public schools, the governor began a long span of service to his community as prosecutor, judge, state senator and U.S. congressman.

During his 17 years in Congress, Deal rose to chair the Health Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, where he became a noted expert on entitlement reform and health care policy.

Deal ended his congressional career to campaign for governor, becoming the Republican nominee in August 2010 and then winning the governorship in November of that year. Nathan Deal was reelected as Georgia's governor on Nov. 4, 2014.

The Governor and First Lady have four adult children and six grandchildren.

A Georgia Legacy

Dear Friends,

Sandra and I are humbled by and grateful for the support you've shown us over the past four years. It has been the privilege of my life to serve as your governor and I am honored to work on your behalf – and for every single Georgian – for another term. We thank our supporters, voters and volunteers from every corner of the state for their faith in us.

From a young age, Sandra and I were taught the importance of faith, family, and service. We've strived to make it the cornerstone of our lives. That's why we chose the Scripture verse 1 Peter 4:10 as the theme of this inauguration:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in various forms."

With this in mind, we call on you once again to join us in serving your communities in whatever way possible.

During the past four years, I worked every day to help create jobs and make Georgia the No. 1 place in the nation in which to do business. Together, we accomplished that goal three times over. We've helped create more than 300,000 private-sector jobs, lowered taxes for all Georgians, and maintained our AAA bond rating. We've invested in education, transportation, workforce development and implemented criminal justice reforms that are already paying dividends.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished these past four years, but we have only just begun. In the coming years, I'll continue working with our congressional delegation, constitutional officers and legislators to build upon our successes. Georgia's best days are ahead of us and we look forward to our bright future. With your help, we will keep Georgia No. 1 for the next generation.

Thank you and God bless.

/s/ Nathan Deal

Georgia's First Lady,
Sandra Deal

First Lady Sandra Deal, the daughter of educators, has dedicated her life to encouraging childhood education. As a Georgia public school teacher, she taught for more than 15 years, and retired as a sixth grade middle school teacher in Hall County.

She has furthered those efforts in her role as Georgia's First Lady, and promoting literacy has been one of her top priorities. As part of her "Read Across Georgia" tour, Sandra has visited and read in all 159 counties and 181 school districts to encourage student reading. To date, she has visited more than 320 schools, encouraging students to love reading and to become "life-long learners." Like her husband, the First Lady believes a good education is the key to future success.

Community service and volunteering is also a top focus of the First Lady's. To that end, Sandra launched "With a Servant's Heart" in 2011. What began as a statewide day of service quickly grew into regular participation in community service programs and volunteer events across Georgia.

The First Lady serves as Chair of the Governor's Office for Children and Family, where she promotes a statewide effort to strengthen and support families and communities. Mrs. Deal also serves as Co-Chair of the Georgia Children's Cabinet, which coordinates policies and resources to improve outcomes for children and families. Among other issues, the First Lady provides leadership on child welfare and juvenile justice issues in Georgia.

Sandra grew up in Gainesville and graduated from Georgia College & State University. The Deals have been married for 47 years and have four children and six grandchildren. They attend First Baptist Church in Gainesville.

With a Servant's Heart A Day of Service

As a teacher, I didn't just teach to one child. I taught every student in the class, and that has been the foundation of my approach to the platform that comes along with being the First Lady of Georgia. In 2011, Nathan and I launched the "With a Servant's Heart" initiative. Volunteerism, community involvement and outreach are at the foundation of our family, and in turn, the foundation of "With a Servant's Heart." It has been our mission to spread these ideals throughout Georgia.

My goal is that every Georgian, no matter the background or circumstance, commits to creating awareness for the importance of volunteerism by allowing one's actions to speak louder than words, to give with a servant's heart.

Nathan and I want to commend those who have given their time, talents, and the necessary resources to make "With A Servant's Heart" such a success this year and in years past.

Thank you for joining us in this vital project.

/s/ Sandra Deal

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Friends,

Thank you for taking part in the 2015 Inaugural Celebration. We were honored when Gov. Nathan Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal asked us to chair these historic events. Gov. Deal has led this state with compassion and a sense of purpose the past four years. His conservative leadership guided our state out of the Great Recession, and it is evident that, with his continued guidance, Georgians' best days are ahead.

With public service at the core of Gov. Deal and Mrs. Deal's heart, it was only fitting to kick-start the inaugural festivities with a day dedicated to joining our fellow Georgians to help those most in need. In 2011, The First Lady and Governor Deal launched "With a Servant's Heart" as a way to encourage people to give back and go forth into their respective communities with hearts concentrated on serving others. We were overwhelmed by the benevolence displayed at the first year's day of service, and we look forward to seeing this tradition flourish each year as it has in years past.

At Gov. Deal's direction, we set out to make this a commemorative celebration for each of our state constitutional officers who have worked alongside one another to lead this great state with strong conservative values. Georgia has chosen Republican leadership for every facet of statewide office, as we move forward from this historic event, let us pledge to build this foundation ever stronger.

In closing, we want to extend special thanks to all the volunteers, benefactors, and Inaugural staff who worked on this event throughout the holiday season. The hard work they contributed to continue and enrich the historic traditions of the Inaugural Ceremony is unmatched. It is a first-rate tribute to our state, and a true testament to our wonderful Governor and First Lady.

/s/ Tricia Pridemore
Tricia Pridemore
Co-Chair

/s/ Edens Davis
Edens Davis
Co-Chair

Honorary Co-Chairs

Banks and Missy Burgess
Jason Deal
Mary Emily O'Bradovich
Carrie Wilder
Katie Deal

Executive Celebration Committee

Richard Anderson	Hala Modellmog
Chris Clark	Bo Moore
Sean Collins	Jay Morgan
Heather & Terry Cook	Bill Morie
Sheila Cook	Mary & John Padgett
Shann Cook Loyd	Doreen & Alec Poitevint
Shan Cooper	Neil Pruitt
Ken Cronan	Pete Robinson
Kevin Curtin	Mike Smith
Bill Davis	Wes Smith
Jay Davis	Jeff Sprecher & Kelly
Jerry Donovan	Loeffler
Bill Dudley	Kessel Stelling
Bill Dudley	Rogers Wade
Skin Edge	Jim Walters
Philip Ellender	John Watson
Randy Evans	John White
Rachel Farmer	Mary Hart & Philip Wilheit
Greg Ford	Sr.
Brian Hudson	Ray Williams
Morgan Kendrick	Paul Wood
Bill Linginfelter	
Hank Linginfelter	

Georgia Inaugural History

In Georgia and across the United States, there is a deep respect for the rich history of gubernatorial inaugurations.

For well over a century in Georgia, the swearing-in of a new governor took place before a relatively small audience. The ceremony was usually held in the chamber of the Georgia House of Representatives before an audience of a joint session of the legislature and citizens in the gallery.

Having taken the Oath of Office, Georgia's new governor would then swear-in the other constitutional officers and deliver his inaugural address before those in attendance.

In 1946, the inaugural ceremony was moved outdoors, providing thousands of Georgians the opportunity to view the special event. Though held indoors in recent years, Gov. Nathan Deal decided to return to the festivities outdoors for his first inauguration. In 2011, unfortunately, due to weather constraints the ceremony was forced indoors.

This year, Gov. Nathan Deal and the constitutional officers will institute a tradition that will forever change gubernatorial inaugurations in Georgia. With the Georgia State Capitol as the backdrop, the 2015 group of elected officials will pledge to preserve, protect and defend the liberties provided by the Constitution at the newly constructed Liberty Plaza.

The Liberty Plaza

Gov. Nathan Deal chose the newly constructed Liberty Plaza as the site of the inaugural ceremony due to its historic significance and his commitment to the project.

"Holding the swearing-in ceremony in the new plaza, which Georgians have advocated for and worked toward for decades, is fitting," Deal said. "The public should have a safe place to assemble, and we believe Liberty Plaza will hold an important place in public debate and assemblies for many years to come."

Liberty Plaza, a public park and gathering space across the street from the Gold Dome, is the result of more than 100 years' effort to create a safe civic area for large rallies and gatherings. The plaza, designed to accommodate several thousand people, will prevent large assemblies from spilling into street traffic. Previously, a decades-old parking deck, deemed a hazard, was located on the site.

Throughout the 20th century, multiple plans were offered for a public gathering space before being scrapped. One of the first proposals was submitted in 1910 with the title "A Dream of the Heart of Atlanta, Ga., The Half Million City."

Liberty Plaza will hold the Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty replicas.

The Liberty Bell

Georgia's Liberty Bell will ring for the first time in decades to mark the start of Gov. Deal's swearing-in ceremony. The bell, a gift from the Truman administration, will be housed in the newly constructed Liberty Plaza.

"The Liberty Bell, much like Liberty Plaza, has historical significance to our state," Deal said. "It was intended for use at patriotic occasions, and we look forward to restoring that tradition. It is my hope that the Liberty Bell will become part of Georgia's inaugural ceremony for years to come."

The recently restored bell previously sat on the grounds of the Capitol.

Full-size replicas of the Liberty Bell were presented to each of the 50 states in 1950 as part of a U.S. savings bond drive called "Save for Your Independence." The Treasury

Department, along with several private companies, selected Paccard Foundry in Annecy-le-Vieux, France, to cast the bells.

The plaque accompanying the bell reads:

Dedicated to you, a free citizen in a free land.

This reproduction of the Liberty Bell was presented to the people of Georgia at the direction of The Honorable John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury.

As the inspirational symbol of the United State Savings Bond Independence drive from May 15 to July 4, 1950, the Liberty Bell was displayed in every part of the state.

The dimensions and tone are identical with those of the original Liberty Bell when it rang out our independence in 1776.

In standing before this symbol, you have the opportunity to dedicate yourselves as, did our founding fathers, to the principles of the individual freedom for which our nation stands.

Constitutional Officers

Nathan Deal
Governor

Casey Cagle
Lt. Governor

Brian Kemp
Secretary of State

Sam Olens
Attorney General

Gary Black
Agriculture
Commissioner

Ralph Hudgens
Insurance
Commissioner

Mark Butler
Labor
Commissioner

Richard Woods
State School
Superintendent

Chuck Eaton
Public Service
Commissioner

Doug Everett
Public Service
Commissioner

Tim Echols
Public Service
Commissioner

Bubba McDonald
Public Service
Commissioner

Stan Wise
Public Service
Commissioner

**Lieutenant
Governor of Georgia**
Casey Cagle

My Fellow Georgians,

I am honored to welcome you to today's inauguration as we reflect on the tremendous progress that has been made over the last four years and commit ourselves to the greatness Georgia's future has to offer.

Together, we have come a long way and there is much to be proud of. Georgia is recognized as the top place in the country to do business, home of the world's busiest airport, one of the fastest growing ports, and the headquarters of many of the world's leading companies.

As we continue to build a Georgia that is filled with prosperity for all, we must build a personalized education system that provides opportunities for Georgia's students and businesses. Through innovative solutions, our educational system can be a driving force of the economy of the future. Our college and career academies are closing the skills gap and giving Georgia kids the skills they need to succeed in the global economy.

These things don't happen by accident. It takes all of us working together. Georgians across the state have stepped up to the plate to change our state for the better through hard work and determination. Gov. Deal and my colleagues in the General Assembly have provided the leadership necessary to take our state toward greatness. And the Almighty above has blessed us beyond measure.

As a native son of Georgia, I will forever be grateful for all of the opportunities our state has offered me. My presence on the stage today is a testament to the power of the American dream and the fact that it is alive and well in Georgia. And I look forward to preserving those same opportunities for generations to come so our children and grandchildren will know like we do that there is no better place to call home than Georgia.

As Nita and I stand before you to take the oath of office, we are humbled by your trust and support. Together, let's boldly embrace the opportunities that lie ahead and continue to prove to the world that Georgia's brightest days are always yet to come. It is an incredible honor to serve as your Lt. Governor and I look forward to working every day to make you proud.

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle

Georgia State Senate

John Albers

Brandon Beach

Emanuel Jones

John Kennedy

Charlie Bethel	Greg Kirk
Ellis Black	William Ligon
Dean Burke	David Lucas, Sr.
Gloria Butler	P.K. Martin
Bill Cowsert	Josh McKoon
Mike Crane	Fran Millar
Gail Davenport	Butch Miller
Mike Dugan	Jeff Mullis
Vincent Fort	Nan Orrock
Frank Ginn	Elena Parent
Steve Gooch	Ronald Ramsey, Sr.
Marty Harbin	Michael Rhett
Ed Harbison	Valencia Seay
Tyler Harper	David Shafer
Bill Heath	Freddie Powell Sims
Steve Henson	Jesse Stone
Hunter Hill	Horacena Tate
Jack Hill	Bruce Thompson
Judson Hill	Curt Thompson
Chuck Hufstetler	Lindsey Tippins
Lester G. Jackson	Ross Tolleson
Bill Jackson	Renee Unterman
Donzella James	Ben Watson
Rick Jeffares	John Wilkinson
Harold Jones	Tommie Williams
Burt Jones	Michael Williams

Georgia House of Representatives

Jeff Deffenbaugh	Jan Jones	Karen Bennett	Allen Peake
Steve Tarvin	Harry Geisinger	Tom Rice	Nikki Randall
Tom Weldon	Chuck Martin	Pete Marin	James Beverly
Bruce Broadrick, Sr.	Wendell Willard	Brooks Coleman	Bubber Epps
John Meadows	Joe Wilkinson	David Clark	Rusty Kidd
Tom Dickson	Sheila Jones	Hugh Floyd	Larry O'Neal
David Ralston	Beth Beskin	Dewey McClain	Heath Clark
Stephen Allison	Tyrone Brooks	Valerie Clark	Buddy Harden
Kevin Tanner	"Able" Mable Thomas	Buzz Brockway	Jimmy Pruett
Terry Rogers	Pat Gardner	Timothy Barr	Matt Hatchett
Rick Jasperse	Simone Bell	Chuck Efstration	Gerald Greene
Eddie Lumsden	Margaret Kaiser	Joyce Chandler	Ed Rynders
Katie Dempsey	Keisha Waites	Brett Harrell	Darrel Ealum
Christian Coomer	Roger Bruce	David Casas	Winfred Dukes
Paul Battles	Ladawn Jones	B.J. Pak	Jay Roberts
Trey Kelley	Ronnie Mabra	Dale Rutledge	Greg Morris

Howard Maxwell	Virgil Fludd	Andy Welch	Bill Werkheiser
Kevin Cooke	Sharon Teague	Brian Strickland	Butch Parrish
Paullette Braddock	Kimberly Alexander	Dave Belton	Jon Burns
Michael Caldwell	Micah Gravely	Pam Dickerson	Jan Tankersley
Scot Turner	Dustin Hightower	Tom Kirby	Bill Hitchens
Wes Cantrell	Randy Nix	Bruce Williamson	Bob Bryant
Mandi Ballinger	Lynn Smith	Terry England	Craig Gordon
Mark Hamilton	David Stover	Regina Quick	Ron Stephens
Mike Dudgeon	Matt Ramsey	Spencer Frye	Mickey Stephens
Geoff Duncan	John Yates	Chuck Williams	Jesse Petrea
Lee Hawkins	Valencia Stovall	Barry Fleming	Jeff Jones
Dan Gasaway	Mike Glanton	Ben Harbin	Al Williams
Carl Rogers	Sandra Scott	Barbara Sims	Dominic LaRiccia
Emory Dunahoo	Darryl Jordan	Wayne Howard	Penny Houston
Tommy Benton	Demetrius Douglas	Earnest Smith	Jay Powell
Alan Powell	Tom Taylor	Gloria Frazier	Sam Watson
Tom McCall	Mike Jacobs	Brian Prince	Darlene Taylor
Bert Reeves	Scott Holcomb	Mack Jackson	John Corbett
Ed Setzler	Mary Margaret Oliver	Susan Holmes	Amy Carter
Earl Ehrhart	Howard Mosby	David Knight	Jason Shaw
Sam Teasley	Rahn Mayo	Johnnie Caldwell	Dexter Sharper
David Wilkerson	Karla Drenner	Bob Trammell	Chad Nimmer
Erica Thomas	Michele Henson	John Pezold	Alex Atwood
Rich Golick	Earnest Williams	Richard Smith	Jason Spencer
Michael Smith	Billy Mitchell	Calvin Smyre	
Stacey Evans	Stacey Abrams	Carolyn Hugley	
Sharon Cooper	Pamela Stephenson	Debbie Buckner	
Don Parsons	Dee Dawkins-Haigler	Mike Cheokas	
Matt Dollar	Tonya Anderson	Patty Bentley	
John Carson	Dar'shun Kendrick	Robert Dickey	

**Speaker
of the House**

David Ralston

Greetings,

Today, we celebrate one of our most cherished rights – the right we have to choose those who serve in positions of public trust and leadership.

At the same time, I want to commend those who leave office today for their service to the state of Georgia. Public service is truly a rewarding experience, but also one of great sacrifice. For your efforts, we owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude.

For those who are being sworn in today, we all know that many challenges await us. I believe that the people of Georgia have chosen their elected representation well and that together we are ready to build a greater future for our state.

As the 2015 session begins, I look forward to serving with Gov. Deal, Lt. Gov. Cagle, members of the General Assembly and each state official being sworn in today as we continue on our path of progress as a state.

I am excited about our future because I truly believe Georgia's greatest days are still to come. I am grateful for your trust and the opportunity to continue serving you.

Sincerely,

/s/ David Ralston
David Ralston, Speaker
Georgia House of Representatives

Inaugural Program

Liberty Plaza
Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2015
2 p.m.

Pre-Ceremony
116th Army Band
Georgia Army National Guard
Chief Warrant Officer Mark Cummings, Presiding Officer

Georgia on My Mind
Banks & Shane and the Utopian Academy
of the Arts Childrens Choir

Joint Session Call to Order
The Speaker of the House, David Ralston

Presentation of Colors
The Georgia State Patrol Honor Guard

The National Anthem
Mr. Timothy Miller, Tenor

Invocation
Dr. Dwight "Ike" Reighard
Senior Pastor, Piedmont Church

Delivery of the Great Seal
Secretary of State, Brian Kemp

Administration of Oath of Office to the Governor

The Honorable Jason Deal

19 Gun Salute

The United States Army

Administration of Oath of Office to the Lieutenant Governor

Gov. Nathan Deal

Inaugural Remarks

Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle

Administration of Oath of Office to Constitutional Officers

Secretary of State Brian Kemp

Attorney General Sam Olens

Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black

Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens

State School Superintendent Richard Woods

Labor Commissioner Mark Butler

Inaugural Address

Gov. Nathan Deal

Benediction

Dr. Bruce Morgan

Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church of Griffin***Dissolution of Joint Session of Legislature***

Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle

Inaugural Benefactors

AFLAC

American Council of Engineering

Companies of Georgia

Angie & Leo Wells

Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.

Associated General Contractors of Georgia

AT&T

Atlanta Braves

Atlanta Gas Light

Bennie Hewett

Bey & Associates LLC

Law Offices of William F. Underwood III

Linley Jones PC

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company

Madeleine N. Peake

Malone Law Office

Massey Watson Bowers & Hembree

Matthey Lemak

Maximus

Maxine & Bob Burton

McGuireWoods

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia
Boone & Stone
Brian & Trish Burdette
Bruce A. Hagen, Attorney at Law
Butler Wooten Cheeley & Peak LLP
C. Andrew Childers, PC
Cancer Treatment Centers of America
Cash, Krugler & Fredericks LLC
Chambers & Aholt LLP
Civil Justice PAC, Inc.
Clark & Smith Law Firm LLC
Comcast
Community Loans of America
Cook & Connelly
Cook, Noell, Tolley & Bates LLP
Correcthealth
Corrections Corporation of America
CSX Transportation
Darren Tobin, Butler Tobin LLC
David S. Bills PC
DaVita Healthcare Partners
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
Delta Dental Insurance Company
Eugene C. Brooks IV, PC
EY
Families for Better Public Schools
Fried Rogers Goldberg LLC
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Georgia Agribusiness Council, Inc.
Georgia Association of Convenience Stores
Georgia Association of Educators
Georgia Automobile Dealers Association
Georgia Bankers Association
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Dental Associates PAC
Georgia EMC
Georgia Health Care Association
Georgia Hospital Association
Georgia Mining Association
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Georgia Poultry Federation
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NCR
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Perimeter Business Alliance/Perimeter
Community Improvement Districts
Perkins Law Firm LLP
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Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison &
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Sabal Trail Transmission
SCANA Energy
Schnitzer Southeast, LLC
Scientific Games
Sewon America, Inc.
Shann Cook Loyd
Sheila Cook
Slappey & Sadd LLC
Slover, Prieto, Marigliano, Holbert LLC
Sunovion Pharmaceuticals
SunTrust
Superior Plumbing

Georgia Transmission	Suzanne & Don Leebern, Jr.
Georgia Transportation Alliance	Swedish Match North America
Georgia Trial Lawyers Association	Synovus Financial Corporation
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Kaufman Law PC	WINDSTREAM
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Law Office of Mary D. Lewis	Zachary H. Thomas

The Governor and First Lady extend their appreciation and thanks to the inaugural committee, including the hundreds of volunteers, contributors, and staff whose hard work made the inauguration possible.

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In Loving Memory of Mack Burgess

A loving son, faithful friend and steadfast colleague. It was an honor to know you and work with you. Your passion for life was evident in everything you did. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Mack Burgess, 1989-2014. Rest In Peace.

The following inaugural address was delivered by His Excellency, Governor Nathan Deal:

Lt. Governor Cagle, Speaker Ralston, President Pro Tem Shafer, Speaker Pro Tem Jones, members of the General Assembly, constitutional officers, members of the consular corps, members of the judiciary, my fellow Georgians:

Today, we stand under the watchful eye of History. In a nation founded by pilgrims seeking new religious freedoms, in a state formed by an English nobleman looking to give debtors and religious refugees from the Old World a fresh start, in a city symbolized by the phoenix rising from the ashes of a civil war, and across from a new plaza where Georgians of today and tomorrow can exercise their rights to speak freely, to petition and

to assemble, the hundreds of you here today represent the 10 million people across Georgia as we inaugurate a new term, a new vision, a new mandate to address the needs of our citizens.

This is an occasion not to honor me or those who come after me, but rather to celebrate the will of the people of Georgia. Inaugurations of elected officials pay homage to our democracy - to the belief that all citizens have a say in who governs them.

While we planned to have this ceremony in our new forum, Liberty Plaza-which pays tribute to our freedoms, those rights endowed by God, enshrined in our Constitution and defended by free men and women-Mother Nature had a different idea, as she did four years ago. However, if this term produces results on a magnitude of those of my first term, I gladly gather with all of you inside this beautiful Chamber.

In that plaza, which we will dedicate this Friday afternoon, we prominently display symbols of our freedoms: the Statue of Liberty and Georgia's Liberty Bell. Soon, on Capitol grounds, we'll add a statue of Georgia's native son, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who helped fulfill America's promise of freedom and equality for all. He serves as a symbol for those ideals, but history recognizes him as a man of action. Within our new plaza, the symbols of freedom will welcome the exercise of freedom. There, Georgians will engage in the marketplace of ideas. There, they will advocate or oppose government actions. There, they will assemble to express their thoughts and opinions, openly and without fear.

What we do as elected officials under this iconic gold dome directly affects the lives of all Georgians, and our duty is to seek policies that will allow every citizen to realize their full potential so that liberty and freedom will have real meaning in their lives. As we celebrate this new beginning today, we reflect on how forward-looking leadership creates powerful new beginnings in the individual lives of Georgians.

Those who have never lost their freedom can easily take it for granted. Perhaps, therefore, liberty may hold some deeper meaning for those who have lost it and are now seeking to regain it. In Georgia, we have taken monumental steps in recent years to give nonviolent offenders a new beginning. As a result, our alternative courts are paying dividends for offenders, their families and taxpayers. We have indeed found a smarter way to address the cases of nonviolent offenders whose underlying issues are addiction or mental illness. Instead of burdening taxpayers with the cost of a prison sentence, instead of branding the offender with the stigma of incarceration, these individuals are getting the treatment they need; they are keeping jobs; and they are keeping families together.

At the beginning of the current fiscal year, there were roughly 4,700 active participants in our accountability courts seeking a second chance. For those individuals and their families, these new beginnings are restoring hope.

The greatest affirmation of the success of these reforms comes from Georgians who tell Sandra and me their personal stories of how accountability courts have given them a second chance to break their addictions and reclaim their lives. These stories come from people we meet in shops, restaurants and the working world of Georgia. Several days ago I stopped at a small sandwich shop. The lady who took my order recognized me and immediately told me her story of how she had graduated from a local drug court. She repeated the refrain that is universal in these encounters: "Drug court saved my life." She told me she was the mother of five children and that without that second chance she would not be able to work and support her family. Our reforms are working.

For those who are already in our prison system, many of them now have the chance for a new beginning too. Approximately 70 percent of Georgia's inmates don't have a high school diploma. If their lack of an education is not addressed during their incarceration, when they re-enter society they have a felony on their record but no job skills on their résumé. I am here to tell you, an ex-con with no hope of gainful employment is a danger to us all. This is why we must work to get these individuals into a job. Our prisons have always been schools. In the past, the inmates have learned how to become better criminals. Now they are taking steps to earn diplomas and gain job skills that will lead to employment after they serve their sentences.

Augusta is home to a fine example of what an opportunity at a new life can mean for an individual who has exited our prison system. A former inmate by the name of Sean has proven that a helping hand, a pleasant demeanor and persistence in the face of adversity go a long way in shaping a person's future. While he was in a state transitional center, Sean worked at the Governor's Mansion. Over time, Sandra and I grew to know him. He has since been paroled, and I am proud to tell you, he currently works for Goodwill. He has received a promotion for his strong performance, been nominated for Goodwill International Employee of the Year and now serves as Banquet Catering Sales Coordinator employing skills he developed at the Mansion. He will soon begin taking classes in a college program, where he intends to earn a degree and become a counselor. I am pleased that Sean is with us today.

While it is important that our criminal justice system punish those who have harmed the lives and property of our citizens, it should also seek to change the direction of their lives so that they will not repeat their criminal conduct upon release. Punishment for bad conduct coupled with fundamental changes that lead to good conduct are the ingredients that result in True Justice.

While Sean's story began before our Criminal Justice Reforms were passed, his conduct and that of many others who were seeking a better life upon their release, gave me confidence that we could find a successful pathway if we had the courage to do so. Our message to those in our prison system and to their families is this: If you pay your dues to society, if you take advantage of the opportunities to better yourself, if you discipline

yourself so that you can regain your freedom and live by the rules of society, you will be given the chance to reclaim your life. I intend for Georgia to continue leading the nation with meaningful justice reform.

Most of us who grew up in Georgia were blessed with a great public education, and most of you had the same opportunity I had, made possible by those teachers and administrators who invested in us. I am honored today to have my high school English teacher, Mrs. Shirley Friedman, as well as several of my classmates from Washington County High School, joining us on this occasion.

Education is often at the heart of new beginnings. With the blessing of Georgia's voters, in our first term we created a Charter School Commission to make sure concerned parents and communities would have alternatives from which to choose if their children were trapped in failing schools.

That was certainly the case for the parents and children at Clayton County's Utopian Academy for the Arts, whose students put on an amazing and inspiring performance for us earlier. These students are blessed to have parents willing to fight for them and a visionary principal, Artesius Miller, who overcame many obstacles to open the school.

Theirs is a story of determination, conviction and passion, and the children who sang for us today are the beneficiaries. You can see that hard work and discipline are paying off in their lives.

Without the charter school amendment, many of these children would still be sitting in schools that are underperforming. But because Georgia did the right thing, they will have a brighter future. In several years, many of them will be the first in their families to attend college. These are exciting new beginnings, and we will work in this term to plant more of these opportunities.

As governor, my top priority has been creating new jobs, so that those who take the time to acquire education and workforce skills will then be able to support themselves and their families. This task has been particularly difficult as our state has been recovering from the Great Recession. And yet, we've created more than 319,000 new jobs in the private sector in the past four years. Just six days ago we announced that Mercedes-Benz USA is establishing its North American headquarters here, creating hundreds of new high-paying jobs.

Let us not lose the significance in the statistic. Behind each one of those job numbers is a personal story. Every so often, I get to hear some of those stories myself. Let me read you a piece of a letter I received this past fall from a young girl in metro Atlanta:

"I'm 11 years old and live in DeKalb County, go to Peachtree Charter Middle School and love it here in Georgia. By the way thank you for becoming governor because those thousands of jobs you gave Georgia was one of my moms."

The girl who wrote me that letter is here today with her mother and twin sister. Angelique, will you and your family please stand and be recognized. I want you to know that we will continue to create jobs over the next four years for others like your mom.

These are the stories of new beginnings for Georgians seeking to recapture their lives, for Georgians seeking to learn and achieve, for Georgians seeking to earn a living. These stories are what have inspired me for the past four years and what excite me about this second term. They are why I'm honored that the citizens of this state have affirmed their faith in the positive direction we're going by giving me this opportunity to serve once again.

These next four years are about building upon the foundation we have laid. While we have accomplished much, we have much left to do. That work is a new beginning. It begins today.

May God bless you and may God continue to bless the great state of Georgia.

The Joint Session was dissolved.

The Speaker called the House to order.

The Speaker announced the House adjourned until 10:00 o'clock, tomorrow morning.