

**Resolution in Recognition of Water Professionals Appreciation Day
Monday, May 4, 2015.**

WHEREAS, At the time the Georgia Water Quality Control Act was passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed into law in 1964 by Governor Carl Sanders, there were 25 Georgia communities with no public sewage systems, 40 with a sewer system but no treatment facilities, 60 communities with a sewer system but only primary treatment facilities, 50 communities with a sewer system and secondary treatment facilities in need of improvement, and 395 industries with documented untreated or inadequately treated discharges to Georgia's surface waters.

WHEREAS, When the Georgia Water Quality Control Act was passed, many Georgia surface waters were extremely polluted, and serious water quality problems existed all over the State. The state established the Georgia Water Quality Control Board (later reconstituted as the Georgia Environmental Protection Division as a result of the 1972 Reorganization of State Government under Governor Jimmy Carter), and Governor Sanders appointed R.S. "Rock" Howard to be the board's executive secretary. By the time the federal Water Quality Control Act was passed in 1972, most Georgia industries had been brought into compliance with the initial requirements of the federal act. Over the ensuing four decades, billions of federal, state, and local dollars have been invested in planning, designing, and constructing modern publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities throughout the state. Water professionals at these facilities are committed to maintaining consistent compliance with extremely stringent standards. Both publicly- and privately-owned facilities have performed so well that they are no longer the most significant threat to Georgia's waters. Georgia's water quality has improved dramatically throughout the state over the 50 years since enactment of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act.

WHEREAS, Significant strides have been made over the past several decades in providing safe and reliable water at the tap throughout the state. According to the World Health Organization, four children die *every minute* somewhere in the world due to waterborne disease (that's over two million children per year), and over half of the hospital beds in the world are occupied by people with waterborne diseases. Rarely do we hear of any such occurrences in the United States, thanks to the dedication and commitment of water professionals, along with a mandate from leaders at all levels of government and from the public at large. Georgia's last-known outbreak of waterborne disease was in 1989, over 25 years ago.

WHEREAS, It is imperative that these improvements be sustained while continuing our efforts to educate Georgians of their growing responsibility in the reduction of non-point sources of pollution to Georgia's waters and their responsibility for stewardship of Georgia's precious water resources. The success that we have experienced thus far, and the success that we will have in the future, is made possible by the tremendous dedication and efforts of Georgia's water professionals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of Griffin, Georgia considers it fitting and proper that these individuals and their efforts be appropriately recognized. During its recently completed session, the Georgia General Assembly amended Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and observances, so as to designate the first Monday in May of each year as "***Water Professionals Appreciation Day***" in Georgia. Water professionals provide critical services that are most often taken for granted, but that are essential to virtually everything we do.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution was adopted by an affirmative vote at a Regular Meeting of the City Commission of Griffin, Georgia, held on the 28th day of April 2015. By order of the Chairman and City Commission, Monday, May 4, 2015 is hereby designated as "***Water Professionals Appreciation Day in Griffin***", a special day of recognition for men and women who work tirelessly in our City to ensure that our tap water is safe and that our water resources are protected and properly managed. Specifically, we want to recognize and thank the staff and management of the Griffin Water/Wastewater Department on this, the twenty-eighth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen.

Douglas S. Hollberg, Chairperson
City of Griffin Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kenny L. Smith, Secretary