

House Resolution 740

By: Representatives Cooper of the 30th, Parsons of the 29th, Dollar of the 31st, Henson of the 55th, Golick of the 34th, Post 3, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring Sir Jack Polak; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Sir Jack Polak, a survivor of the Jewish Holocaust of World War II, has
3 dedicated himself to sharing his experiences with the world and in so doing is changing the
4 world in immeasurable ways; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he was born on December 31, 1912, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the German occupation of the Netherlands interrupted his normal life as a tax
7 consultant, and in July, 1943, he was taken to the Dutch deportation Camp Westerbork where
8 he stayed until February, 1944, when he was sent to the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen;
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1943, both his parents were deported to Sobibor where they died in the gas
11 chambers; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he was liberated by the Russian Army on April 23, 1945; and
- 13 WHEREAS, in 1946, he married Catharina Soep, whom he'd met in the camps, and they
14 started a family together; and
- 15 WHEREAS, in 1951, he and his family emigrated to the United States and he began a
16 successful business career; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he speaks regularly to audiences around the country about his war-time
18 experiences and has spoken in several Georgia cities to churches, schools, and other
19 organizations; and

1 WHEREAS, he is a member of the New York State Holocaust Commission and a founding
2 member of the Westchester Commission on the Holocaust in Westchester County, New
3 York, where he lives; and

4 WHEREAS, in his capacity as Chairman Emeritus of the Anne Frank Center U.S.A. in New
5 York, he has opened small Anne Frank exhibits across the country that have been viewed by
6 thousands of people; and

7 WHEREAS, his efforts have made it possible for the world's largest Anne Frank exhibit to
8 come to Georgia on a long-term basis; and

9 WHEREAS, housed at Kennesaw State University, the beneficial impact this exhibit will
10 have upon millions of viewers is incalculable in terms of building understanding and tearing
11 down hatred; and

12 WHEREAS, Sir Jack Polak, with great courage and love for humanity, has used the horrors
13 of his own life to offer hope and enlightenment to others.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
15 the members of this body honor Sir Jack Polak and express their immense appreciation for
16 his invaluable contributions towards reconciling human differences and divisions.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
18 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Sir Jack Polak.