

Senate Resolution 699

By: Senator Dean of the 31st

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Murphy-Harpst Children's Center; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Murphy-Harpst Children's Center (MHCC) is a residential treatment facility
3 for emotionally and behaviorally handicapped children and has grown and changed greatly
4 since it was first established in the early 1920's; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1913, The Women's Home Mission Society of the Methodist Church
6 established the McCarty Settlement House to address the many needs of families and
7 children in and around Cedartown; and

8 WHEREAS, one year later, the church assigned Ethel Harpst to be the house's
9 superintendent; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1922, Mrs. Harpst and the school took in the children of a woman who died
11 of tuberculosis and, soon afterward, other needy children began and continued to arrive until
12 the McCarty Settlement House was full; and

13 WHEREAS, a new home was established due to the kindness of a local benefactor who
14 donated a house on Bradford Heights, site of the current MHCC campus, to house the
15 growing number of children suffering from the ravages of the Great Depression; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Harpst founded the Ethel Harpst Home for Children to care for orphans
17 and children whose parents could no longer take care of them; and

18 WHEREAS, due to the overwhelming need of the area children, existing space ran out and
19 other buildings followed on the Harpst campus including more living quarters, a dining hall,
20 a superintendent's home, and the Daniel Merner Chapel; and

1 WHEREAS, Sarah McClendon, an African American woman from Seney, would eventually
2 bring even more children to the Harpst Home and began teaching to local African American
3 children; and

4 WHEREAS, Sarah McClendon took the name of Murphy when she married Marion Murphy;
5 and by the early 1930's, the Murphy's took in six neighboring children, including a day-old
6 infant, when the neighboring mother died giving birth; and

7 WHEREAS, others joined them and soon the Murphy's home on Grady Road was
8 overflowing and, in 1935, Mama Sarah founded the Sarah D. Murphy Home, one of the first
9 institutions chartered in Georgia to care for African American children; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1984, the Ethel Harpst Home merged with the Sarah Murphy Home and both
11 campuses proudly continue to serve children with a variety of special needs to this day.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body commends the
13 Murphy-Harpst Children's Center for their selfless and generous devotion to children in
14 need.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
16 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Murphy-Harpst Children's Center.