

House Resolution 1239

By: Representative Lucas of the 105th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring W. Douglas Skelton, M.D.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. W. Douglas Skelton has served the State of Georgia with the greatest
3 dedication and the utmost skill and his contributions are many and lasting; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Skelton's professional career has included private practice, medical
5 administration, public service, and medical education; and

6 WHEREAS, following graduation from Emory University School of Medicine and a
7 psychiatric residency at Columbia in New York, Dr. Skelton spent two years in the United
8 States Public Health Service; and

9 WHEREAS, he returned to Emory in 1969, where he was a full-time faculty member in the
10 Department of Psychiatry until 1974, and, during these years, he organized Grady's drug
11 abuse treatment program and served as Chief of Psychiatry at Grady Hospital and then as
12 Medical Director of the Georgia Mental Health Institute; and

13 WHEREAS, in January of 1977, Governor George Busbee appointed the Gainesville native
14 Commissioner of the Human Services Agency; as commissioner, Dr. Skelton directed more
15 than 100 programs in the areas of physical health, mental health and mental retardation,
16 social services, public assistance, and vocational rehabilitation; and

17 WHEREAS, in January of 1980, he returned to Emory as Professor and Vice Chairman of
18 the Department of Psychiatry; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Skelton served for ten years as chair of the State Health Policy Council as
20 an appointee of Governors Busbee and Harris and served for five years as chair of the
21 Georgia Task Force on AIDS; and

1 WHEREAS, from 1992 to 2003 Dr. Skelton served as an appointee of the first President
2 Bush as a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the
3 Health Sciences, the nation's military medical school; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Skelton served as Dean of the Mercer University School of Medicine from
5 1985 to 2002, and, in 2003, Mercer organized its medical, nursing, and pharmacy schools
6 into the Mercer University Health Sciences Center under Dr. Skelton's leadership as Senior
7 Vice President and Provost for Health Affairs.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body honor Dr. W. Douglas Skelton as an outstanding citizen of the
10 State of Georgia and express their immense gratitude for his many significant contributions
11 to the citizens of this state.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
13 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. W. Douglas Skelton.