

House Resolution 2106

By: Representatives Buckner of the 76th, Barnes of the 78th, Dodson of the 75th, Jordan of the 77th, Porter of the 143rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Honorable Terrell Starr; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Honorable Terrell Starr has been a loyal and dedicated public servant to the
3 citizens of the 44th District for nearly four decades; and
- 4 WHEREAS, having been first elected to the Georgia Senate in 1968 and continuously
5 serving since that time, he has been highly esteemed by his colleagues in the General
6 Assembly for his wisdom and wit, his persistent dedication to Georgia's citizens, and the
7 friendship and distinction which he has brought to legislative deliberations; and
- 8 WHEREAS, this dynamic and powerful public servant has held a number of influential posts,
9 including President Pro Tempore of the Senate from 1999 to 2002; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he presently serves as Secretary of the Senate Ethics Committee and as a
11 member of the Education and Youth, Finance, Natural Resources and the Environment, and
12 Appropriations Committees, in addition to serving as an ex officio member of the Banking
13 and Financial Institutions Committee; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in 1997, during his second term, he was named chairman of the Senate
15 Education Committee and from 1971 to 1974, he reviewed and recommended education
16 legislation and led the fight in the Appropriations Committee for additional funding for
17 educational programs and teacher salary increases; and
- 18 WHEREAS, during that same period he authored the Adequate Program for Education in
19 Georgia, which guided the state's education program for some 15 years, and later served as
20 a key member of the Governor's Education Review Commission, coauthoring the landmark
21 Quality Basic Education Act, resulting in former Governor Joe Frank Harris praising Senator
22 Starr as a "champion of education improvements"; and

1 WHEREAS, this Clayton County lawmaker served as administration floor leader for then
2 Governor George Busbee and has also been a member of the Senate Democratic Party
3 Caucus Policy Committee; and

4 WHEREAS, he has also headed or served on a vast number of special legislative and
5 executive study committees, including the Governor's Growth Strategies Commission, the
6 Hospital Cost Containment Study Committee, the Senate Private Long-term Care Study
7 Committee, and the Senate Defense Conversion Strategies Study Committee, which was
8 established to consider new uses for military bases in the state which might be closed in the
9 future; and

10 WHEREAS, this esteemed Senator who served as chair of the Joint Study Committee on
11 Revenue Structure is highly regarded for his thorough knowledge of state spending and
12 budgeting procedures in addition to education issues; and

13 WHEREAS, from 1969 through 1995, he had a record of perfect attendance and has one of
14 the highest roll-call voting records in the Senate; and

15 WHEREAS, he has represented Georgia on the Fiscal Affairs and Governmental Operations
16 Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference and the Communications Committee of
17 the National Conference of State Legislatures; and

18 WHEREAS, during his long career in public service, he served two terms on the Clayton
19 County Commission; eight years on the Clayton County Library Board; 18 years on the
20 Clayton County Board of Health; and six years on the Atlanta Regional Metropolitan
21 Planning Commission, now known as the Atlanta Regional Commission; and

22 WHEREAS, he was born on June 5, 1926, in Clayton County, attended Clayton County
23 public schools, and graduated from Atlanta Law School; and

24 WHEREAS, he bravely served in the United States Navy from 1944 through 1946; and

25 WHEREAS, he is a real estate broker and insurance agent in addition to being an active civic
26 and business leader; and

27 WHEREAS, he served with distinction for 15 years on the Board of Trustees for the Forest
28 Park School District Youth Center, was president of the Jaycees and the Forest Park Kiwanis

1 Club, and received the Distinguished Service Award as the Outstanding Young Man of the
2 Year in Forest Park; and

3 WHEREAS, he continues to dedicate his life to his community by being an active member
4 of the Forest Park Rotary Club, the Masonic Lodge #399, Royal Arch Chapter #75, the Tara
5 Club, and the Yaarab Temple; and

6 WHEREAS, he has received a number of awards from various organizations for his
7 legislative service, including the Georgia Legislator of the Year Award from the Georgia
8 School Counselors Association; the National Legislator of the Year Award from the
9 American School Counselors Association; the Legislator of the Year Award from the
10 Georgia Parks and Recreation Association; and the Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished
11 Service/Citizen of the Year Award; and

12 WHEREAS, he has also been honored by the Georgia Municipal Association; the Georgia
13 Association for Children with Learning Disabilities; the Georgia Moose Association; the
14 Georgia Association of Home Health Agencies; the Elementary School Principals
15 Association; the Georgia Association of Education Leaders; the Gridiron Honorary Society;
16 the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and the National Association
17 for Home Health Care; and

18 WHEREAS, he is an honorary lifetime member of the Peace Officers Association of Georgia
19 and was recognized by the City of Forest Park with the naming of a park in his honor and by
20 Clayton County by the naming of the Terrell Starr Human Services Center in his honor,
21 which includes a library, a mental health clinic, an office of the Department of Family and
22 Children Services, a senior citizens' center, and a children's shelter; and

23 WHEREAS, this Baptist is a deacon and former chairman of the Board of Deacons of the
24 First Baptist Church of Forest Park; and

25 WHEREAS, he and his wife, the former Celeste McKinney, live in Jonesboro and are the
26 parents of two grown children, Terry and JoAnn; and

27 WHEREAS, he is truly the personification of all those qualities which best characterize
28 public service; and

1 WHEREAS, he is respected and loved by members of the General Assembly and the citizens
2 of Clayton County and all across Georgia; and

3 WHEREAS, his foresight and forthright determination have served the 44th District and all
4 citizens of Georgia well, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the members of this body
5 pay appropriate tribute to one of their finest, most distinguished, and most admired
6 colleagues for the many years of unparalleled service he has rendered on behalf of this state
7 and its citizens.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body unanimously join in commending and honoring their most
10 outstanding colleague, Honorable Terrell Starr, for his outstanding record of service in
11 supporting legislation which has substantially improved the quality of life for our citizens
12 and contributed greatly to Georgia's success and thank him for serving as a shining example
13 of enlightened government and statesmanship for nearly four decades.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Honorable Terrell Starr.