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 citizens of the 44th District for nearly four decades; and

3. WHEREAS, having been first elected to the Georgia Senate in 1968 and continuously serving since that time, he has been highly esteemed by his colleagues in the General Assembly for his wisdom and wit, his persistent dedication to Georgia’s citizens, and the friendship and distinction which he has brought to legislative deliberations; and

4. WHEREAS, this dynamic and powerful public servant has held a number of influential posts, including President Pro Tempore of the Senate from 1999 to 2002; and

5. WHEREAS, he presently serves as Secretary of the Senate Ethics Committee and as a member of the Education and Youth, Finance, Natural Resources and the Environment, and Appropriations Committees, in addition to serving as an ex officio member of the Banking and Financial Institutions Committee; and

6. WHEREAS, in 1997, during his second term, he was named chairman of the Senate Education Committee and from 1971 to 1974, he reviewed and recommended education legislation and led the fight in the Appropriations Committee for additional funding for educational programs and teacher salary increases; and

7. WHEREAS, during that same period he authored the Adequate Program for Education in Georgia, which guided the state’s education program for some 15 years, and later served as a key member of the Governor’s Education Review Commission, coauthoring the landmark Quality Basic Education Act, resulting in former Governor Joe Frank Harris praising Senator Starr as a "champion of education improvements"; and
WHEREAS, this Clayton County lawmaker served as administration floor leader for then Governor George Busbee and has also been a member of the Senate Democratic Party Caucus Policy Committee; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, he served with distinction for 15 years on the Board of Trustees for the Forest Park School District Youth Center, was president of the Jaycees and the Forest Park Kiwanis Club; and
Club, and received the Distinguished Service Award as the Outstanding Young Man of the
Year in Forest Park; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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