

House Resolution 247

By: Representatives Cooper of the 41st, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lunsford of the 110th, Lindsey of the 54th, and Peake of the 137th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Ferrol A. Sams, Jr., M.D., on the occasion of his retirement and inviting him to
2 appear before the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferrol Sams, Jr., is a celebrated family physician and nationally recognized
4 author of Fayetteville, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, he was born on September 26, 1922, in Fayetteville, Georgia, received his
6 Bachelor of Arts degree from Mercer University in 1942, earned his M.D. from Emory
7 University School of Medicine in 1949, interned at Lawson V.A. Hospital in Atlanta, and
8 conducted his residency at Shreveport Charity Hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, during World War II, he nobly interrupted his studies to serve with the U.S.
10 Army in the European Theater of Operations from 1944 to 1946; and

11 WHEREAS, he met the love of his life, Helen Fletcher, while they were both studying
12 medicine at Emory University, and they married in 1948; and

13 WHEREAS, Doctors Helen and Ferrol Sams are not only romantic partners; they are
14 professional partners who practiced general medicine in Fayetteville, Georgia, for more than
15 55 years, and were known as passionate physicians who put an equal combination of
16 technical expertise and loving sensitivity into the service of the community; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1978, Ferrol began writing a family history recounting his upbringing in rural
18 Georgia with the intention of sharing it with loved ones, but, as the scale of the document
19 grew, the memoirs evolved into Dr. Sams's first novel, Run with the Horsemen, and was
20 published in 1982 and became a national bestseller; and

21 WHEREAS, the success of Run with the Horsemen incited him to write seven more books:
22 The Whisper of the River, The Widow's Mite and Other Stories, The Passing: Perspectives

1 of Rural America, Christmas Gift!, When All the World Was Young, Epiphany: Stories, and
2 Down Town; and

3 WHEREAS, he is a devoted servant of his community and has served as a member of the
4 Fayetteville City Council, Chairman of the Fayetteville County Board of Health, the North
5 Georgia Health Systems Agency, and the Board of Directors for Blue Cross and Blue Shield
6 and has taught as a professor at the Emory School of Medicine and as a Sunday School
7 Teacher at the Fayetteville United Methodist Church; and

8 WHEREAS, Ferrol lists as his greatest achievement his 59 years of marriage to Helen,
9 considers his role as husband to be just as important as his role as a doctor, cites his favorite
10 book as the Bible, and has a thoroughly practiced green thumb; and

11 WHEREAS, a true son of Georgia, Dr. Ferrol Sams has brought honor to the community of
12 Fayetteville, to this state, and to his country.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
14 the members of this body recognize physician and author Ferrol A. Sams, Jr., M.D., for his
15 outstanding service to the State of Georgia and extend to him the best of wishes for a
16 beautiful and fulfilling retirement.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Ferrol Sams, Jr., is hereby invited to appear before
18 the House of Representatives on a day and at a time designated by the Speaker of the House
19 of Representatives.