

Senate Resolution 1233

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Fort of the 39th, Adelman of the 42nd, Sims of the 12th and Jackson of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Henry Harsch; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Dr. Henry Harsch on October 31, 2009; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a prominent Atlanta psychologist, Dr. Harsch worked in the field of psychology
5 for over 50 years, was the first to receive a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the
6 University of Georgia, and was the seventh licensed psychologist in this state; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Dr. Harsch was born in 1921 in Norfolk, Nebraska, to a family hard hit by the
8 Dust Bowl and Great Depression, growing up on a farm without indoor plumbing or
9 electricity and attending a one-room schoolhouse; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
11 States Navy, where he was selected for the naval officer training program and sent to the
12 University of Oklahoma to study engineering, making him the first in his family to graduate
13 from college; and
- 14 WHEREAS, while pursuing a master's degree in engineering from the University of Southern
15 California, Dr. Harsch realized, as he rode in an elevator to see his advisor, that he was more
16 interested in the minds of the people next to him than in the mechanics of the elevator and
17 switched his major to psychology; and
- 18 WHEREAS, in 1957, he moved to Decatur, Georgia, and worked at the Child Guidance
19 Clinic of DeKalb County, the Milledgeville State Hospital, and Georgia's juvenile prison
20 system before opening his own practice in 1966; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Dr. Harsch and his clinical social worker wife, Jean Mackie Harsch, joined
22 forces and established An Open Space, Ltd., where they practiced together until 2006; and

23 WHEREAS, active in the development of psychotherapy in Georgia, Dr. Harsch taught in
24 the psychology department at Georgia State University for several years, testified before the
25 state legislature regarding the need for insurance companies to cover treatment by
26 psychologists, and made weekly appearances on the WSB-TV morning show *Today in*
27 *Georgia* during the late sixties; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Harsch was blessed with a wonderful 60 year union with his wife, Jean, and
29 the love of six wonderful children, Donna, Alan, John, Cecily, Douglas, and Richard, and 14
30 grandchildren; and

31 WHEREAS, there was nothing more important in the world to Dr. Harsch than being with
32 his family, and he converted a horse pasture behind the family home into a soccer field for
33 his children and local youth and built a small theater and climbing wall in his basement for
34 his grandchildren; and

35 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
36 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he
37 made this world a better place in which to live; and

38 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. Harsch will long be remembered for
39 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and friend will
40 be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Henry Harsch and express their deepest and most
43 sincere regret at his passing.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Henry Harsch.