

Senate Resolution 1414

By: Senator Hill of the 4th

### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Richard Frank Saunders, Jr.; 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. Richard Frank Saunders, Jr., on December 23, 2008; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders was born on August 21, 1934, in Bulloch County, Georgia, a  
5 beloved son of Mollie Lanier and Richard Frank Saunders, Sr.; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a valedictorian graduate of Portal High School, Dr. Saunders earned bachelor's  
7 and master's degrees from Georgia Teachers' College and a doctoral degree from the  
8 University of Georgia; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders was a noted educator, scholar, historian, and author who devoted  
10 his life to serving his family, friends, and community; and
- 11 WHEREAS, this dedicated educator uplifted the lives of his students at Midville High  
12 School, Portal High School, Augusta College, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and  
13 Georgia Southern University; and
- 14 WHEREAS, a prolific and talented writer, Dr. Saunders produced a number of scholarly  
15 works and co-authored *Swamp Water* and *Wiregrass*; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders was a devoted leader with the Portal Heritage Society, Inc.,  
17 helping the society achieve National Register of Historic Places status for the Dr. James  
18 Stewart properties in Portal, helped with numerous organization fundraisers, and took a lead  
19 role in the annual Catface Turpentine Festival; and
- 20 WHEREAS, his vision was instrumental in the success of Portal's 2008 Centennial  
21 Celebration, serving as playwright and coordinator of the Centennial Drama, helping to

22 acquire land from the Bulloch County Board of Education for Portal's Centennial Park, and  
23 soliciting donations and contributions from Portal High School alumni; and

24 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
25 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
26 family and friends were admired by others; and

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

30 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. Saunders will long be remembered for  
31 his love of gardening, travel, family, and friendship, and this loyal community leader,  
32 educator, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
34 join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Richard Frank Saunders, Jr., and express their  
35 deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Richard Frank  
38 Saunders, Jr.