

Senate Resolution 537

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Robert L. Wright, Jr.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert L. Wright, Jr., has long been recognized for his entrepreneurial and
3 philanthropic spirit, and his superior accomplishments will be honored with his induction
4 into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, established in 1947, the Horatio Alger Association is named after Horatio
6 Alger, Jr., a 19th century author who wrote about overcoming obstacles through hard work,
7 honesty, and determination; and

8 WHEREAS, the association's 62nd annual awards ceremony will be held in Washington,
9 D.C., on April 3, 2009, and Dr. Wright will be among 11 inductees selected to serve as role
10 models for today's youth by encouraging motivation and purpose; and

11 WHEREAS, born in 1937 in Columbus, Georgia, the racial discrimination Dr. Wright
12 encountered growing up prompted him to open an optometry practice in Ohio upon his
13 graduation from Ohio State University; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Wright returned to Columbus determined to change the social atmosphere
15 of his birth city, and he established a small firm focusing on race relations, minority affairs,
16 and policy and, in 1970, was elected to the city council; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1981, Dr. Wright was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to head the
18 United States Small Business Administration's minority business program; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Wright later formed Dimensions International, a defense logistics
20 consulting company he later sold to Honeywell International, Inc., and used the proceeds to
21 purchase Flight Explorer, an aircraft tracking firm; and

22 WHEREAS, as Chairman of Flight Explorer, Dr. Wright has seen the company grow to
23 become a leader in motor sports, gaming, entertainment, lighting, and real estate; and

24 WHEREAS, a noted humanitarian, Dr. Wright raised \$1 million in donations, which he
25 matched with his own \$1 million contribution, for the creation of the Dr. Robert L. Wright
26 Jr. Health Sciences Center at Columbus Technical College; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
28 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 commend Dr. Robert L. Wright, Jr., for his great business success, extend their most sincere
31 gratitude for his philanthropic contributions to the State of Georgia, and congratulate him on
32 his induction into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Robert L. Wright, Jr.