

Senate Resolution 592

By: Senators Tate of the 38th and Orrock of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Joe Wilber; 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. Joe Wilber on April 3, 2011; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. Wilber was born in Rochester, New York, and dedicated his life to helping
5 others through his work in the field of medicine; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
7 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during World War
8 II; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Dr. Wilber earned a medical degree from Harvard Medical School and
10 completed residencies at Boston City Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he served as a local private practitioner in internal medicine before embarking
12 on his distinguished public health career; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Dr. Wilber established the nation's first public hypertension program and
14 Georgia's state diabetes program and ran programs for the Georgia Division of Public Health
15 to curb tuberculosis, sexual diseases, flu epidemics, rabies, meningitis, AIDS, and food
16 poisoning outbreaks; and
- 17 WHEREAS, as head of the infectious disease program in the 1980's, Dr. Wilber tackled the
18 emerging AIDS crisis by setting up HIV clinics, lobbying for state money to treat those
19 living with HIV, and helped in the establishment of Jerusalem House, an AIDS hospice; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Wilber served as president of the Georgia Heart Association, was a clinical
21 professor of medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine, and served as medical
22 director of the Georgia International Life Insurance Company; and

23 WHEREAS, he helped found the Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center in Jasper, a free
24 clinic where he volunteered in retirement several days a week, treating everything from
25 diabetes to hypertension; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Wilber was united in love and marriage to Dr. Patricia Bryan Wilber for 58
27 wonderful years; was blessed with four remarkable children, Joe Wilber, John Wilber, Bryan
28 Wilber, and Dr. Martha Wilber; and was the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren; and

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

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

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

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
39 join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Joe Wilber and express their deepest and most
40 sincere regret at his passing.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Joe Wilber.