

House Resolution 1854

By: Representatives Yates of the 73rd, Collins of the 27th, Black of the 174th, Holcomb of the 82nd, Hatchett of the 143rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September, 2012, as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month at the capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that one in six men will develop
4 prostate cancer in his lifetime, and approximately 241,740 new cases of the disease in the
5 United States are predicted for 2012, which would result in nearly 28,170 deaths; and

6 WHEREAS, in Georgia, prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in all race
7 and ethnic groups, and African American men are at especially high risk for prostate cancer;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, approximately 7,900 men are predicted to be diagnosed with prostate cancer in
10 Georgia in 2012, and, of this number, approximately 860 men are predicted to die of this
11 disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to over 258,000 Vietnam veterans; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2008, physicians at the UC Davis Cancer Center released results showing
14 that Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange have greatly increased risks of prostate
15 cancer and even greater risks of getting the most aggressive form of the disease, and the
16 United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that if a veteran served in
17 Vietnam and has prostate cancer, it is presumed that the cancer is a result of that veteran's
18 service; and

19 WHEREAS, while prostate cancer is a leading cause of cancer deaths in men, little is known
20 about this disease, and there are usually no symptoms in the early stages; and

21 WHEREAS, the survival rate approaches 100 percent when prostate cancer is diagnosed and
22 treated early but drops to 29 percent when the disease spreads to other parts of the body; and

23 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society recommends that health care providers offer a
24 prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and a digital rectal examination (DRE) annually
25 to men who have at least a ten-year life expectancy, beginning when the men are 50 years
26 of age; and

27 WHEREAS, men in high-risk groups, such as African American men or those with brothers
28 or fathers who have prostate cancer, should be offered a PSA and DRE beginning when they
29 are 45 years of age; and

30 WHEREAS, men who have multiple family members who are diagnosed with prostate
31 cancer at an early age should consult with their health care provider about prostate cancer
32 screening beginning when they are 40 years of age; and

33 WHEREAS, all men, and especially those in high-risk groups, such as African American
34 men and Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange, should have equal access to all
35 FDA-approved treatment options for prostate cancer.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body encourage all public officials and citizens to increase their
38 awareness of the importance of early detection and treatment of prostate cancer and
39 recognize September, 2012, as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month at the capitol.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.