

Senate Resolution 162

By: Senators Chance of the 16th and Seay of the 34th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Ferrol Sams, 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 beloved physician, humorist, and storyteller Dr. Ferrol Sams, Jr., on
4 January 29, 2013; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Dr. Sams was born in Fayetteville, Georgia, on September 26, 1922, the
6 beloved son of Ferrol Aubrey Sams, Sr., and Mildred Sams; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he graduated from Mercer University in 1942 and attended Emory University
8 School of Medicine for two quarters before the outbreak of World War II, which prompted
9 him to join the United States Army Medical Corps, where he served from 1943 to 1947; and
- 10 WHEREAS, after he completed his service overseas, Dr. Sams returned to Emory to continue
11 his medical studies, and he received his M.D. in 1949; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Dr. Sams was united in love and marriage to his college sweetheart, Helen
13 Fletcher, with whom he ran a private practice in Fayetteville from 1951 to 2006 and opened
14 the Fayette Medical Center in 1987; and the two were blessed with four remarkable children,
15 Ferrol, Jim, Fletcher, and Ellen; eight cherished grandchildren; and nine precious
16 great-grandchildren; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Dr. Sams practiced medicine for more than four decades before he launched his
18 writing career with his first novel, *Run with the Horsemen*, which was published in 1982 and
19 became a national best seller and the first book in a trilogy; and
- 20 WHEREAS, one of Dr. Sams's works, *When All the World Was Young*, won the Townsend
21 Prize for Fiction in 1991 and was performed for American Public Radio's *Radio Reader* in
22 1992; and

23 WHEREAS, a natural storyteller whose works made him a popular writer in the South and
24 garnered favorable national attention, Dr. Sams was honored in 2001 for 50 years of
25 commitment and service to the people of Fayette County, was inducted into the Georgia
26 Writers Hall of fame in 2007, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia
27 Writers Association in 2012; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a masterful storyteller who wrote a total of eight books rooted in the oral
29 traditions of southern humor and folklore and enriched by graceful prose that celebrates the
30 love of the land, the changing southern landscape, and what he called "being raised right" in
31 the rural South; and

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

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Ferrol Sams, Jr.