

House Resolution 659

By: Representatives Brooks of the 55th and Jones of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Harold Hersch; 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 Harold Hersch on February 26, 2013, at the age of 89; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a native of Poland, Harold Hersch survived the Lodz Ghetto and several Nazi
5 concentration camps, including Auschwitz; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he came to the United States in 1949 and met and married Helen Lefkowitz;
7 they soon moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he started his grocery business; and
- 8 WHEREAS, his businesses were always located in minority communities, and he used his
9 experience of oppression to help other oppressed people, providing food to customers who
10 could not afford it; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Harold Hersch was known as not only being a quality grocer, but also an equal
12 opportunity employer, hiring black cashiers when other store owners would not; and
- 13 WHEREAS, his store, which was located near the intersection of what is now Martin Luther
14 King Jr. Drive and Peyton Road, was often visited by many notable African Americans such
15 as the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., the Reverend Dr. Ralph Abernathy, Harry
16 Belafonte, and Pearl Bailey; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he was a vocal opponent of the Peyton Wall, a concrete barricade designed to
18 separate white and black neighborhoods, and went with several citizens to address Mayor
19 Ivan Allen about its existence; and
- 20 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
21 for the civil rights of all; and

22 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife; children, Nica Tallman, Rochelle Hersch, and Steven
23 Hersch; six grandchildren; and numerous other family members and friends; and

24 WHEREAS, Harold Hersch's life provided a shining example to those who had the great
25 fortune of knowing him, and he will be missed.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Harold Hersch and express
28 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Harold Hersch.