

## House Resolution 695

By: Representatives Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Channell of the 120<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, and Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Joseph A. Parker upon his retirement; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Joseph A. Parker has served the membership of the Georgia Hospital  
3 Association (GHA) for 35 years with 27 of those years as president and chief executive  
4 officer; and
- 5 WHEREAS, during his tenure at GHA, he served as a tireless advocate for enhancing  
6 Georgia hospitals' ability to provide quality, cost-effective health care services to every  
7 Georgia resident; and
- 8 WHEREAS, under his leadership, GHA has long enjoyed 100 percent membership of all  
9 acute care hospitals in Georgia, making the association one of the most respected, influential  
10 trade associations under the Gold Dome in Atlanta; and
- 11 WHEREAS, his efforts have also helped enhance Georgia's reputation at the national level,  
12 and in 2002, he received the prestigious American Hospital Association (AHA) Trustee  
13 Award for his many contributions at the national level; furthermore, in 2004, he was named  
14 to the AHA Board of Trustees; and
- 15 WHEREAS, in Georgia, he is widely recognized for his leadership in working with the state's  
16 Department of Medical Assistance to create one of the country's most successful hospital  
17 reimbursement programs, the Georgia Indigent Care Trust Fund; and
- 18 WHEREAS, under his visionary leadership, GHA created and unveiled a statewide hospital  
19 quality and patient safety program that was one of the first organizations of its kind in the  
20 country; today, the Partnership for Health and Accountability continues to be a major force  
21 in improving hospital care in Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2005, he helped lead a carefully coordinated effort among hospitals,  
23 physicians, and the Georgia business community to reduce rising health care costs and  
24 preserve access to care for all Georgians, resulting in the passage of one of the strongest tort  
25 reform laws in the country; and

26 WHEREAS, due in part to his career-long dedication to Georgia hospitals and his many  
27 leadership accomplishments, the quality of care provided by Georgia's health care delivery  
28 system is better than ever, and his service to the entire Georgia health care delivery system  
29 will be greatly missed.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body commend Joseph A. Parker for 35 years of faithful, committed  
32 service to Georgia hospitals and for being a loyal colleague and friend, congratulate him  
33 upon the grand occasion of his retirement, and extend to Joe and his wife, Lynne, their most  
34 sincere best wishes for many happy and healthy years of carefree retirement.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Joseph A. Parker.