

House Resolution 766

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, O`Neal of the 146th, Brooks of the 55th, and Smyre of the 135th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the memory of Mr. Dick Pettys, expressing regret at his passing, designating a
2 portrait commissioned by members of the House of Representatives to be displayed in the
3 Coverdell Legislative Office Building in his honor, and inviting members of his family to be
4 recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, news of the passing of Mr. Dick Pettys, long-time political reporter who
6 covered the state capitol beat for the Associated Press for more than three decades, is
7 received with deep regret by this body; and

8 WHEREAS, the life led by this distinguished gentleman of 66 years rendered his name dear
9 to the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, the acknowledged "dean" of the capitol press corps, Mr. Pettys had a reputation
11 for evenhanded reporting and was a well-respected mentor to other reporters; and

12 WHEREAS, he came to the state capitol in 1970 as a young man in his twenties, just as
13 Governor Lester Maddox was finishing up his term; and

14 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Pettys kept an eye on those in power, holding them
15 accountable for their actions; even when those officials he covered did not like what he
16 reported, they knew him to be fair; and

17 WHEREAS, after retiring from the Associated Press, Mr. Pettys worked for several years as
18 the chief editor for *InsiderAdvantage*, an online political report, and he had recently retired
19 to a log cabin in north Georgia; and

20 WHEREAS, in life, he commanded the esteem of his fellow Georgians, and in his death, we
21 mingle our sympathies with the grief of his family, wife, Stephanie Suessmith Pettys; sons,
22 Richard "Ric" Roy Pettys, Jr., William "Beaux" Howland Pettys II, and Clement "Chip"
23 Nelson Pettys; and friends and fellow citizens.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body honor the memory of Mr. Dick Pettys, express their regret at his
26 passing, designate a portrait commissioned by members of the House of Representatives to
27 be displayed in the Coverdall Legislative Office Building in his honor, and invite members
28 of his family to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time designated
29 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and
31 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Dick Pettys.