

House Resolution 795

By: Representatives Powell of the 32nd, O'Neal of the 146th, Smyre of the 135th, Harbin of the 122nd, Greene of the 151st, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the memory of Mr. Richard Pettys; 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 Mr. Richard "Dick" Pettys on October 8, 2012; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Pettys was born on November 25, 1946, in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended
5 North Fulton High School; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was a loving husband to Marian Stephanie Suessmith and a devoted father
7 to their three remarkable sons, Richard R. Pettys, Jr., William H. Pettys II, and Clement N.
8 Pettys; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Mr. Pettys diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his
10 time, talents, and energy toward the betterment of this state as evidenced dramatically by his
11 more than three decades of dedicated service as a reporter covering politics and state
12 government for the Associated Press; and
- 13 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Associated Press, he was responsible for keeping
14 politicians honest, and no one had a greater depth of knowledge about what was happening
15 in the political and corporate communities in our state, a knowledge he used to keep the
16 public well informed and give public servants the ability to make better policy; and
- 17 WHEREAS, this beloved individual exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty, outstanding
18 loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all his endeavors, which have
19 been recognized by his associates under the gold dome and throughout state government; and
- 20 WHEREAS, his significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience
21 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, his knowledge of where to go and how to get the
22 story first, and his ability to work alongside the members of the General Assembly, gaining

23 their trust while remaining an honest critic, earned him the respect and admiration of his
24 colleagues, associates, and the members of this body; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Pettys was an honorable gentleman, a true scholar, a talented and outspoken
26 journalist, a good friend to many, a lover of PayDay candy bars and other excellent health
27 foods, and is sorely missed by all who knew him; and

28 WHEREAS, it is said that there is no better eulogy for a journalist than to say he was a great
29 reporter, and Mr. Richard Pettys was a great reporter.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Mr. Richard Pettys, recognize his
32 many years of efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service to the citizens of
33 this state, and express their sincere sorrow at his passing.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Richard
36 Pettys.