

House Resolution 1634

By: Representatives Brooks of the 55th, Jones of the 53rd, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Thomas of the 56th, and Williams of the 168th

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the life of Courtney Parker Siceloff and offering condolences on his passing; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Courtney Parker Siceloff was a devout Quaker who did a lot of good during his
4 lifetime, but he never shrank from pointing out what was not good; he was a dedicated
5 protester for decades, and well into his 80s he was a familiar figure at the corner of 14th and
6 Peachtree Streets holding a sign that read, "War is not the answer"; and

7 WHEREAS, he passed away at the age of 92 at Hospice Savannah of respiratory failure; an
8 Atlanta resident since 1973, he moved to Savannah in 2008 and resided at Habersham House
9 assisted living facility; and

10 WHEREAS, one of his fellow American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) members,
11 former AFSC regional director Elizabeth Enloe of New York City, said: "We looked to
12 Courtney for guidance in turbulent times and times of joy. His integrity, his pursuit of
13 justice, his commitment to nonviolence and his Quaker capacity to find the good in everyone
14 were luminous beacons to us all"; and

15 WHEREAS, his son, John Siceloff of New York City, said his father, as a young man from
16 Texas, was troubled by the prospect of America's entry into World War II because he had
17 come to believe that violence against any human being was tantamount to violence against
18 God; with that in mind, the elder Siceloff transferred from Southern Methodist University
19 to Haverford College, a Pennsylvania school with a strong Quaker presence; in time, he
20 chose to become a conscientious objector; and

21 WHEREAS, he took a job in 1950 as executive director of a community center and school
22 on St. Helena, a South Carolina coastal island; it was there that he met the Rev. Martin
23 Luther King, Jr., in 1963 and later accompanied King in the momentous March on
24 Washington; near the White House, Siceloff chalked up his first of many protest arrests; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1968 he was appointed deputy director for Peace Corps programs in
26 Afghanistan; his next job brought him to Atlanta where he joined the staff of the United
27 States Commission on Civil Rights, whose mission was to ensure that federal funds for local
28 projects were distributed without racial, gender, or other forms of bias; and

29 WHEREAS, upon retirement, Siceloff had more time to devote to causes that mattered to
30 him, including outlawing the death penalty, sheltering the homeless, and ending the wars in
31 Iraq and Afghanistan; and

32 WHEREAS, he was a faithful member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting House and helped
33 establish its expanded worship center and school in Decatur; and

34 WHEREAS, his wife of 53 years, Elizabeth Siceloff, died in 2003, and they leave behind a
35 son, John, a daughter, Mary, and a grandson; and

36 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper to celebrate a life well lived and to use it as an
37 inspiration for those who follow in his footsteps.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body celebrate the life of Courtney Parker Siceloff and offer sincere
40 condolences to his family and friends.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Courtney
43 Parker Siceloff.