

## Senate Resolution 483

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Davenport of the 44th, Fort of the 39th and Butler of the 55th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Dr. Thomas Mensah; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas Mensah is an innovator of and pioneer in fiber optics  
3 manufacturing and communications systems; his particular improvements to the process of  
4 making fiber optic cables dramatically improved the cost efficiency of producing those  
5 cables, clearing the way for a greater degree of fiber optics technologies in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Mensah was born in 1950 in Kumasi, Ghana, and from an early age, he  
7 displayed a propensity for intellectual behavior; he could read newspapers and converse  
8 fluently in French with his father's business associates; and

9 WHEREAS, his groundbreaking discoveries at Corning Glass Works were merely the first  
10 portion of his career; by 1986, he had joined Georgia's AT&T Bell Laboratories, where he  
11 began work on the application of fiber optics to smart weapons technologies, which could  
12 be utilized in guided missile systems and other military applications; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Mensah was able to use fiber optics to create a guidance system for missiles  
14 that incorporated a small camera which was installed within the missile's nose; and

15 WHEREAS, his inventions include semiconductors designed for space communications, tank  
16 gun barrel replacements, and solid state rechargeable cell phone batteries, and this  
17 distinguished doctor was awarded seven patents in six years; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Mensah's aerospace innovations helped him build the high tech firm he  
19 founded in Norcross, Georgia, known as a Supercond Technologies, which helped develop  
20 advanced structural materials for American fighter aircraft; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Mensah is currently the president and director of Georgia Aerospace  
22 Systems Manufacturing, which is focused on research and development of aerospace  
23 materials; and

24 WHEREAS, the technological achievements made by Dr. Mensah in his career have led to  
25 a great deal of official recognition for his work; his honors include the Corning Glass Works  
26 Industrial Individual Outstanding Contributor Award for innovation in Fiber Optics, 1985;  
27 AT&T Bell Laboratories High Performance Award, 1988; and the American Institute of  
28 Chemical Engineers' William Grimes Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering, 2006;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. Mensah has been recently elected as a fellow to the National Academy of  
31 Inventors and will be inducted with other fellows at a special ceremony at CalTech in  
32 Pasadena; and

33 WHEREAS, having authored a couple of books on fiber optics and superconductor  
34 engineering, Dr. Mensah wrote *The Right Stuff Comes in Black, Too*, which was published  
35 in September, 2013; this book focuses on achievements by African Americans in science,  
36 technology, and a variety of other fields, even entertainment; and

37 WHEREAS, Dr. Mensah wants to combine childhood education with African American  
38 history through the development of his Success Park, which he hopes to build in Georgia; the  
39 theme park would include attractions that pay homage to black leaders like Nelson Mandela,  
40 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks; fiber optics technologies would be utilized  
41 throughout the park; and

42 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
43 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
45 commend Dr. Thomas Mensah on his tremendous contributions to fiber optics technologies  
46 and his service to his community, this state, and the nation.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
48 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Thomas  
49 Mensah.