

House Resolution 646

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, Thomas of the 39th, Dudgeon of the 25th, Setzler of the 35th, and Brooks 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
45 the members of this body commend Dr. Thomas Mensah on his tremendous contributions
46 to fiber optics technologies and his service to his community, this state, and the nation.

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