

House Resolution 1727

By: Representative Cheokas of the 138th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Stuart Perry; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Stuart Perry founded the Perry Wellness Center located in Americus, Georgia,
3 and he has been a national behavioral health advocate for almost 30 years; and

4 WHEREAS, at the age of 21, he witnessed the suicide of his father, who suffered from
5 depression, and for years after, he struggled with feelings of loss and his own depression; and

6 WHEREAS, he was not diagnosed with major depression until a psychotic break in 1989 led
7 him to mental health treatment, and after hospitalization, medication, and group therapy, Mr.
8 Perry began his road to mental health; and

9 WHEREAS, this past year, he celebrated 20 full years of recovery, and since his illness
10 brought him to the brink, his journey has been one of advocacy, promoting the importance
11 of recognizing mental illness and the value of treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, prior to establishing the Perry Wellness Center, Stuart worked with the Mental
13 Health Association and Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare in several roles, such as
14 consumer specialist, case manager, public speaker, and advocate; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1994, he became one of the first consumer specialists to be certified in
16 Georgia, and since then, his accomplishments have included the Consumer Empowerment
17 of the Year Award, Welcome Back Lifetime Achievement Award from Eli Lilly, John Locke
18 Award, first annual GOAL–Go On and Live Award from the Governor, Clifford W. Beers
19 Award from the Mental Health Association, and Provider of the Year Award from the
20 Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Perry gained national recognition with his Journey for Life, a walk from
22 Americus, Georgia, to Chicago, Illinois, sponsored by the Mental Health Association to

23 deliver a message to the American Medical Association about mental illness recognition and
24 treatment; and

25 WHEREAS, armed with thousands of petition signatures and accompanied by hundreds of
26 other walkers at different points on his journey, he spoke to mental health and civic groups
27 at every stop along the way; and

28 WHEREAS, with the support of advocates such as former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and
29 Habitat for Humanity cofounders Millard and Linda Fuller, he became a national force for
30 mental health recovery, and the story of his journey is preserved in the book *Journey for Life*;
31 and

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

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body recognize and commend Stuart Perry for his exemplary service as
36 a mental health advocate.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Stuart
39 Perry.