

## House Resolution 1198

By: Representatives Spencer of the 180<sup>th</sup>, Ealum of the 153<sup>rd</sup>, Greene of the 151<sup>st</sup>, Clark of the 98<sup>th</sup>, Belton of the 112<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the United States Congress to increase the per diem rate for nursing care in state  
2 veterans homes to 75 percent of the state private nursing rates; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, according to the Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation, this nation is home  
4 to the largest aging veteran population in its history, accommodating roughly 10 million  
5 veterans aged 65 and over; and
- 6 WHEREAS, nursing home coverage for veterans is available from two sources within the  
7 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – the veterans health care system and the state veterans  
8 home system; and
- 9 WHEREAS, state veterans homes fill an important need for low-income veterans and  
10 veterans who desire to spend their last years with fellow service members; and
- 11 WHEREAS, every state has at least one veterans home and some states, such as Oklahoma,  
12 have six or seven; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays the state veterans homes an  
14 annually adjusted daily rate for each veteran in the home, known as the per diem; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the per diem program and construction subsidies mean that state veterans homes  
16 can charge less money for their services than private facilities; and
- 17 WHEREAS, some states have a set rate and may rely on a qualified veteran's pension benefit  
18 with aid and attendance plus the per diem to cover their actual costs; other states may charge  
19 a percentage of the veteran's income but rely on other subsidies to cover the rest of the cost;  
20 and some state veterans homes receive Medicaid support; and
- 21 WHEREAS, in most states, the per diem falls well short of that paid in the private sector.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 GEORGIA that the members of this body urge the United States Congress to increase the per  
24 diem rate for nursing care in state veterans homes to 75 percent of the state private nursing  
25 rates.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
27 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
28 members of the Georgia congressional delegation.