

House Resolution 1198

By: Representatives Spencer of the 180th, Ealum of the 153rd, Greene of the 151st, Clark of the 98th, Belton of the 112th, 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.