

Senate Resolution 1021

By: Senators Parent of the 42nd, Orrock of the 36th, Henson of the 41st, Anderson of the 43rd, Davenport of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. H. Kenneth Walker; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Dr. H. Kenneth Walker on February 23, 2018; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker, a beloved professor of medicine and neurology at Emory
5 University School of Medicine and professor of global health at Rollins School of Public
6 Health, dedicated his 60 year career to clinical care of patients at Grady Memorial Hospital
7 and to global health outreach in the Republic of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, his 60 year career included an unrivaled dedication to Grady Memorial
9 Hospital, beginning in 1958 when he was a third-year medical student; and he completed his
10 residency training at Grady and remained there until the time of his death, only leaving to
11 serve two years in the United States Air Force in southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; and

12 WHEREAS, as a graduate of Oxford College, Emory College, and Emory School of
13 Medicine, and Emory's residency training program, Dr. Walker served as assistant chief of
14 medicine for the Grady Health System and was honored in 2017 at Grady's White Coat Gala
15 for more than 40 years of service to the hospital; and

16 WHEREAS, in addition to his skills as a physician, Dr. Walker was extremely dedicated to
17 the education and training of medical students, directed many aspects of medical training,
18 and personally trained more internal medicine residents than any other Emory physician, and
19 through his strong mentorship skills, imparted valuable lessons to physicians in training
20 about dedication, professionalism, and patient-centered medical care; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker wrote and edited many books on physical diagnosis, organizing
22 medical data, and evaluating surgical patients, in addition to the application of computers to
23 medicine; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker was instrumental in establishing a pioneering electronic medical
25 record at Grady Hospital and was a member of the National Library of Medicine since 1992;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, for more than 25 years, as executive director of Partners for International
28 Development, Walker led the Atlanta-Tbilisi Partnership, a collaboration between
29 educational and health care institutions in the Republic of Georgia and the city of Atlanta;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, the partnership's many projects have been instrumental in improving the quality
32 of health care in the Republic of Georgia, including establishing the National Information
33 Learning Center; participating in laws and regulations reforming the health care sector;
34 bringing 50 Georgian medical school graduates to Emory for three years of training in
35 internal medicine and other specialties; mentoring 15 Georgians who received their MPH at
36 Emory; and establishing the Caucasus School of Business; and

37 WHEREAS, his leadership resulted in the development of health care management education
38 for mid-level hospital administrators in the Republic of Georgia, the establishment of a
39 modern emergency room, the training of practicing nurses and the planning of a nursing
40 school, the creation of a Women's Wellness Center, collaboration with Georgian scientists
41 and physicians in AIDS and tuberculosis, and assessments of the country's libraries; and

42 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker was principal investigator of a grant establishing emergency
43 medicine as a specialty in the Republic of Georgia and of a grant to improve the nursing
44 profession; and

45 WHEREAS, in 2005, Dr. Walker was named an honorary citizen of the Republic of Georgia,
46 and in 2016, the Georgia Hospital Association awarded him the Georgia Hospital Heroes
47 Lifetime Achievement Award; and

48 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker was an educator, mentor, physician, and patient advocate whose
49 influence has impacted thousands of physicians and physician trainees over half a century
50 of work to the benefit of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and many thousands of patients.

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
52 honor the life and memory of Dr. H. Kenneth Walker and recognize his leadership and

53 contributions to the education and health of the citizens of the State of Georgia and the
54 Republic of Georgia.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
56 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Emory University,
57 Grady Memorial Hospital, and the family and friends of Dr. Kenneth Walker.