

## House Resolution 481

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Jackson of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, and Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. William Nettles Wessinger; 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. William Nettles Wessinger on February 20, 2025; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. William Nettles Wessinger was born on March 25, 1947, in Columbia,  
5 South Carolina, a beloved son of James Bryson and Eliza Nettles Wessinger; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
7 States Army, valiantly and courageously aiding his fellow Americans as a Flight Surgeon and  
8 holding the rank of Captain prior to his honorable discharge; and
- 9 WHEREAS, after his military service, he was accepted into the Duke University School of  
10 Medicine's orthopedic surgery residency, where he served as chief resident in his fourth year  
11 and completed a Fellowship in Hand and Upper Extremities; and
- 12 WHEREAS, in 1981, he relocated to Savannah, Georgia, to begin his medical career with  
13 Orthopedic Associates, which later merged with Optim Orthopedics, and for over 23 years,

14 he provided exceptional care to his patients, forming lasting relationships and earning a  
15 reputation as one of the finest orthopedic surgeons in the region; and

16 WHEREAS, transitioning into hospital administration, he further served as Senior Vice  
17 President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer at Memorial Health, where he  
18 contributed to the Quality Improvement Council; and

19 WHEREAS, he was widely respected for his expertise and contributions to the medical field,  
20 earning membership in the American Society of Surgery of the Hand, the Piedmont  
21 Orthopedic Society at Duke, and the Georgia Orthopedic Society; and

22 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Karen, and was blessed with two  
23 remarkable children, Lucy and William, as well as two wonderful grandchildren, Noel and  
24 Freya; and

25 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. William Nettles Wessinger will long  
26 be remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all  
27 who had the great fortune of knowing him.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. William Nettles  
30 Wessinger and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
33 family of Dr. William Nettles Wessinger.