

House Resolution 1477

By: Representatives Burns of the 159th, Parrish of the 158th, Greene of the 154th, Stephens of the 164th, and Powell of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Joseph A. "Joe" Sports; 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 Joseph A. "Joe" Sports on January 9, 2026; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Joseph A. "Joe" Sports was born on October 17, 1934, in Douglas, Georgia, a
5 beloved son of Mae and Elisha Sports, and while still in high school, he began his journalism
6 career at *The Douglas Enterprise*, where he eventually served as associate editor; and
- 7 WHEREAS, after being drafted in 1957, he served for 18 months as a photographer within
8 the United States Army, faithfully carrying out his duties while traveling across Europe; and
- 9 WHEREAS, upon his honorable discharge, Joseph A. "Joe" Sports entered public service in
10 Washington, D.C., as a staff member for Georgia Congresswoman Iris F. Blicht; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he later returned to Georgia to serve as news director at WALB-TV in Albany,
12 where his insight, professionalism, and political acumen further strengthened his reputation
13 as a trusted communicator; and

14 WHEREAS, Joseph A. "Joe" Sports was selected thereafter by James H. Gray to serve as
15 executive director of the Democratic Party of Georgia, a role he held until the election of
16 Jimmy Carter as governor; and

17 WHEREAS, following Governor Carter's appointment of David H. Gambrell to the United
18 States Senate, he returned to Washington to serve as administrative assistant and later worked
19 with United States Senator Sam Nunn and United States Congressman Dawson Mathis; and

20 WHEREAS, after concluding his government service, he established a respected career as
21 a public relations and legislative consultant, and in 2022, he returned to *The Douglas*
22 *Enterprise* as a writer and photographer; and

23 WHEREAS, Joseph A. "Joe" Sports was united in marriage to his wife, Ronda McNeil
24 Davis, and was blessed with a remarkable daughter, Susan, as well as two wonderful
25 grandsons, Ali and Amir; and

26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Joseph A. "Joe" Sports will long be
27 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
28 had the great fortune of knowing him.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Joseph A. "Joe" Sports and
31 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
34 family of Joseph A. "Joe" Sports.