

House Resolution 2003

By: Representatives Cummings of the 39th and Mitchell of the 88th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Captain Dr. Melvin Pender; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Captain Dr. Mel Pender Jr. has distinguished himself through a lifetime of
3 achievement as a decorated military officer, world-class athlete, author, and civil rights
4 advocate whose accomplishments have brought honor to the State of Georgia and the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, known to many as Mel, he first represented the United States at the 1964 Tokyo
7 Olympics, where he demonstrated the discipline, courage, and drive that would define his
8 career both on and off the track; and

9 WHEREAS, he performed thereafter at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games, earning a
10 gold medal through his remarkable speed and skill while serving as a combat soldier in the
11 Vietnam War, for which he received the Bronze Star; and

12 WHEREAS, nicknamed the "Black Knight" in the track world, Captain Dr. Mel Pender Jr.
13 earned admiration not only for his record-setting performances but also for his mentorship,
14 humility, and compassion; and

15 WHEREAS, his honors further include induction into multiple Halls of Fame, such as the
16 Officers' Candidate School Hall of Fame, the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame, the
17 Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, and the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame; and

18 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has given inspiration to many through his high
19 ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens, and he possesses the vast wisdom
20 which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved
21 through overcoming the many challenges of life; and

22 WHEREAS, Captain Dr. Mel Pender Jr. is a person of magnanimous strengths with an
23 unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
25 remarkable and distinguished individual be appropriately honored.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize and commend Captain Dr. Mel Pender Jr. for his many
28 exceptional lifetime achievements as well as extend the most sincere best wishes for
29 continued health and happiness.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
32 Captain Dr. Mel Pender Jr.