

House Resolution 1118

By: Representative Ralston of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Michael Joseph Egan; 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 Michael Joseph Egan on January 7, 2016; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Egan was born on August 8, 1926, in Savannah, Georgia, a beloved son of
5 Dr. Michael J. Egan and Elise Robider Egan; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he graduated from Portsmouth Priory prep school in Rhode Island in 1944 and
7 entered Yale College, but was soon drafted into the United States Army at the age of 19; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Egan served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the
9 United States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during
10 World War II, where he served with the 86th Infantry Division in the Philippines, and the
11 Korean War, where he served with the Second Infantry Divison as a First Lieutenant; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he went on to finish Yale College and Harvard Law School, graduating with
13 honors in 1955, then joined the Atlanta firm of Sutherland, Asbill, and Brennan, where he
14 was a partner until retiring in 2000; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he was a member of the American Law Institute, American Council of Trust
16 and Estate Lawyers, the Lawyers Club of Atlanta, and the American, Georgia, and Atlanta
17 Bar Associations; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Mr. Egan won election to the Georgia House of Representatives as a
19 Republican, was reelected seven times, and was House Minority Leader in 1971, a time when
20 Democrats dominated the General Assembly; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1989, he won a seat in the Georgia Senate, where Republicans were still
22 greatly outnumbered, but Mr. Egan, nevertheless, was an effective opposition leader who was
23 respected by, and forged coalitions with, both Republicans and Democrats; and

24 WHEREAS, upon his retirement, he was called "the Conscience of the Senate" in an official
25 declaration made by his Senate colleagues; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Egan retired from the Senate in 2000, having never lost an election for
27 public office; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Egan was united in love and marriage to Donna Cole Egan, and was blessed
29 with six remarkable children, Moira, Michael, Donna, Cole, Roby, and John, and 16
30 wonderful grandchildren, Nina, Michael, Katie, Jack, Chas, Eleanor, Sam, Cole, Cameron,
31 Emily, Mallie, John, Jake, Jackson, Joe, and Sam; and

32 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
33 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
34 family and friends were admired by others; and

35 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
36 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he
37 made this world a better place in which to live; and

38 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Egan will long be remembered for his
39 love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, friend, colleague,
40 and public servant will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
42 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. Michael Joseph Egan
43 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
46 family of Mr. Michael Joseph Egan.