

## House Resolution 1615

By: Representatives Mosby of the 83<sup>rd</sup> and Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>

## 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's School of Medicine and professor of global health at Rollins School of Public  
6 Health, dedicated his 60 year career to the clinical care of patients at Grady Memorial  
7 Hospital 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
- 10 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker completed his residency training at Grady and remained there until  
11 the time of his death, only leaving to serve two years in the United States Air Force in  
12 Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; and
- 13 WHEREAS, as a graduate of Oxford College, Emory College, the Emory School of  
14 Medicine, and Emory's residency training program, Dr. Walker served as assistant chief of  
15 medicine for the Grady Health System and was honored in 2017 at Grady's White Coat Gala  
16 for more than 40 years of service to the hospital; and
- 17 WHEREAS, in addition to his skills as a physician, Dr. Walker was extremely dedicated to  
18 the education and training of medical students, directed many aspects of medical training,  
19 and personally trained more internal medicine residents than any other Emory physician; and
- 20 WHEREAS, through his strong mentorship skills, Dr. Walker imparted valuable lessons to  
21 physicians-in-training about dedication, professionalism, and patient centered medical care;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, he wrote and edited many books on the topics of physical diagnosis, organizing  
24 medical data, evaluating surgical patients, and the application of computers to medicine; and

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

28 WHEREAS, as executive director of Partners for International Development for more than  
29 25 years, Dr. Walker led the Atlanta-Tbilisi Partnership, a collaboration between educational  
30 and health care institutions in the Republic of Georgia and the City of Atlanta; 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, Dr. Walker's leadership resulted in the development of health care management  
38 education for mid-level hospital administrators in the Republic of Georgia; the establishment  
39 of a modern emergency room; the training of practicing nurses and the planning of a nursing  
40 school; setting up a Women's Wellness Center; working with Georgian scientists and  
41 physicians who study AIDS and tuberculosis; and assessing 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, he was an educator, mentor, physician, and patient advocate whose influence  
49 has impacted thousands of physicians and physician trainees, as well as over half a century  
50 of work to benefit the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and many thousands of patients;  
51 and

52 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the accomplishments and devoted service  
53 of this exemplary citizen be appropriately recognized, and that his life and memory be  
54 honored.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
56 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Dr. H. Kenneth Walker and  
57 recognize his leadership and contributions to medical education and patient care, to the  
58 benefit of the State of Georgia and beyond.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
60 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Emory  
61 University, Grady Memorial Hospital, and the family and friends of Dr. H. Kenneth Walker.