

House Resolution 159

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7th, Evans of the 57th, Wilson of the 80th, Fleming of the 121st, Leverett of the 33rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of R. Perry Sentell Jr.; 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 R. Perry Sentell Jr. on January 28, 2021; and
- 4 WHEREAS, R. Perry Sentell Jr. was a beloved son of R. Perry Sentell Sr. and Ethel
5 Whitehead Sentell; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Professor R. Perry Sentell Jr., Marion and W. Colquitt Carter chair in tort and
7 insurance law emeritus, retired on July 1, 2004, after over 46 years of teaching and service
8 to the University of Georgia's School of Law; and
- 9 WHEREAS, his outstanding scholarly career oversaw the publication of nearly 30 books,
10 including *Essays on the Supreme Court of Georgia* (2004), *The Georgia Supreme Court and*
11 *Local Government Law: Two Sheets to the Wine* (1999), *Studies in Georgia Statutory Law*
12 (1997), *The Georgia Negligence Jury* (1995), *Tales Out of Trial* (1995), *A Profile: The*
13 *People and Practice of Georgia Local Government Law* (1995), *The Law of Municipal Tort*
14 *Liability in Georgia* (4th ed., 1988), and *Studies in Georgia Local Government Law* (3d ed.,
15 1977); and

16 WHEREAS, he wrote various articles, including "Local Government Liability Litigation:
17 Numerical Nuances" in the *Georgia Law Review* (2004), "Local Government Litigation:
18 Some Pivotal Principles" in the *Mercer Law Review* (2003), "Lightening the Load: In the
19 Georgia Supreme Court" in the *Georgia Law Review* (2003), "A Six-Member Civil Jury in
20 Georgia? The Trial Judges Weigh In" in the *Mercer Law Review* (2002), and others; and

21 WHEREAS, his well-known expertise in his field of study resulted in several generations of
22 lawyers and policymakers in Georgia looking to him for guidance on matters pertaining to
23 local government law and torts; and

24 WHEREAS, he has been honored by the Georgia House of Representatives, the Georgia
25 Trial Lawyers Association, and the Georgia Municipal Association for distinguished service
26 to the advancement of legal education; and

27 WHEREAS, he received the 1995 Distinguished Service Scroll Award, the highest honor
28 bestowed by the UGA Law School Alumni Association, and graduates selected him 11 times
29 as their class marshal, a distinction given to the law school faculty or staff member whom
30 they most respect; and

31 WHEREAS, a native of Pinehurst, Georgia, Professor R. Perry Sentell Jr. left a lasting
32 imprint upon generations of UGA law students; his first year class on torts became the stuff
33 of legend, made even more so by Palsgraf Day, and his classes were demanding but
34 punctuated by humor; and

35 WHEREAS, this educated gentleman earned both his bachelor's degree and law degree from
36 the University of Georgia, and he later earned a Master of Laws from Harvard University;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, as laudable as his professional accomplishments were, even more admirable
39 were his sustaining Christian faith and unparalleled love and dedication to his family; and

40 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his late wife, Jeanette, and was blessed
41 with two remarkable children, Ruth and Robert; six wonderful grandchildren, Erin, Ellen,
42 Robert IV, Robert, Christopher, and Jenna; and four wonderful great-grandchildren, Brady,
43 Carter, Sam, and Jack; and

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

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

50 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, R. Perry Sentell Jr. will long be
51 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
52 had the great fortune of knowing him.

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
54 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of R. Perry Sentell Jr. and
55 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
57 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
58 family of R. Perry Sentell Jr.