

## Senate Resolution 599

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Brass of the 28th, Jackson of the 41st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Roland A. Pattillo; 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. Roland A. Pattillo on May 3, 2023; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. Roland A. Pattillo was born on June 12, 1933, in DeQuincy, Louisiana, a  
5 beloved son of James E. and Rhena Shaw Pattillo; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was Gynecologic Oncologist and Professor Emeritus in the Department of  
7 Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Morehouse School of Medicine and a noted gynecologic  
8 oncologist, professor, researcher, and author; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he attended Xavier University in New Orleans and earned a medical degree  
10 from St. Louis University in 1959; completed a fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at John  
11 Hopkins University in 1967; became the first African American faculty member at Marquette  
12 University's School of Medicine; served as vice chair of the department at the Medical  
13 College of Wisconsin; and, in 1995, relocated to Atlanta as Interim Chair of the Department  
14 of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine; and

15 WHEREAS, he trained as a fellow with George Gey, MD, who was known for culturing the  
16 first immortalized cell line from a tissue sample during the treatment of Henrietta Lacks, a  
17 cervical cancer patient whose cells were harvested without her knowledge, which is  
18 chronicled in the best-selling book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*; and

19 WHEREAS, much of his career and research were driven by his experience of Henrietta  
20 Lacks' suffering, and he was instrumental in creating the Annual HeLa Women's Health  
21 Conference at the Morehouse School of Medicine in honor of Henrietta Lacks; and

22 WHEREAS, his expertise, which was sought worldwide, earned him a reputation as a trusted  
23 physician and colleague, and he was known as a doctor's doctor because of his passion and  
24 compassion for performing surgeries throughout the world, often without compensation; and

25 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Patricia, and was blessed with  
26 seven remarkable children, Catherine, Patrick, Sheri, Mary, Todd, Terence, and Bright; and  
27 eight wonderful grandchildren, Daniel, Carlos, Camille, David, Vann, Benjamin, Jahi, and  
28 Zoe; and

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

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

35 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, he will long be remembered for his love  
36 of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of  
37 knowing him.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
39 join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Roland A. Pattillo and express their deepest and  
40 most sincere regret at his passing.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
42 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Dr.  
43 Roland A. Pattillo.