

Senate Resolution 718

By: Senator Hooks of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the American Camellia Society at
2 Masee Lane Gardens in Peach County, Georgia, and designating the headquarters facility
3 with appropriate signage; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the American Camellia Society has been in existence for over 60 years and is
5 recognized as the leading camellia organization in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, the Executive Director, Sandra Byrd, the staff, and the National Board of the
7 American Camellia Society are proud of the contributions of all who have given of their time
8 and support to the facility since its establishment in 1968 through a generous gift of 160 acres
9 by the late Dr. Dave Strother; and

10 WHEREAS, the purposes of this nonprofit corporation, as stated in its articles of
11 incorporation, are to promote interest in the genus *Camellia L.*, scientific research in its
12 culture, standardization of its varietal names, certification of new varieties, dissemination of
13 information concerning the above, creation of a foundation to further these purposes, and
14 promotion of the organization and affiliation of local Camellia Societies in the United States;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the mission of the American Camellia Society is to be a self-sufficient, national
17 membership society committed to continually building its membership through offering
18 world-class products, leading in camellia research and education, and being supported by
19 efficient and effective organizational systems; and

20 WHEREAS, the American Camellia Society also owns and maintains a self-sufficient, public
21 garden at Masee Lane in Fort Valley, Georgia, serving camellia lovers nationally as well as
22 residents of the region and tourists; and

1 WHEREAS, during its 40 years of existence at Masee Lane Gardens, the society has
2 provided a public garden, which has enriched the lives of countless Georgians and tourists
3 who have visited the grounds in Peach County.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 GEORGIA that the members of this body honor the American Camellia Society and its
6 dedication to promoting one of the classic flowers of the South and the State of Georgia.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in recognition of 40 years of service, the facility known
8 as American Camellia Society Headquarters located in Fort Valley, Georgia, shall serve as
9 the official state resource center for information and education on the horticultural aspects
10 of the genus *Camellia* and the Department of Transportation is hereby authorized and
11 directed to place and maintain appropriate signs so designating said facility.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
13 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the American Camellia Society, the
14 Department of Transportation, and the Department of Agriculture.