

House Resolution 211

By: Representative Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Eric Alexander de Groot; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Eric Alexander de Groot is a multilingual consultant on international  
3 cross-cultural affairs and published author from the Netherlands; and

4 WHEREAS, over the past 25 years, Mr. De Groot has traveled between Atlanta, Georgia,  
5 and the Netherlands, promoting the City of Atlanta and the State of Georgia and inviting  
6 executives of multinational corporations and private investors to Georgia, which has resulted  
7 in an increase in jobs and economic growth; and

8 WHEREAS, the Netherlands plays an important role in Georgia's economy; more than 70  
9 Dutch companies within 300 operating facilities have invested over \$2.5 billion in this state;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, founder of the Holland America Chamber, Mr. De Groot coordinated a 2007  
12 trade mission to the Netherlands in conjunction with the Metro Atlanta Chamber of  
13 Commerce, visiting the heads of multinational organizations, thereby promoting and  
14 stimulating the economy of Metro Atlanta and the State of Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. De Groot has fifteen years of experience exporting American goods and  
16 importing European products, serving department stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's,  
17 Bloomingdale's, Neiman Marcus, and hundreds of other clients, including The Coca-Cola  
18 Company, The Home Depot, The Weather Channel, BellSouth, and others; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. De Groot specializes in American and European affairs, conducting  
20 seminars on international business and the understanding of foreign cultures; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. De Groot presented *A European Perspective of the Current State of Global*  
22 *Affairs* to the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice and is working

23 on a workshop entitled *The Georgia Global Awareness Tour* to inform and educate Georgia  
24 businesses on efficient international exportation of goods; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. De Groot is the coauthor of the article, "Go the Distance — The Hole in  
26 the Berlin Wall," in the book, *Irresistible Leadership*, and his articles on motivation and  
27 global cultures have been published in several magazines; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. De Groot is an active member of the National Speakers Association, the  
29 International Professional Expert Group, and the International Federation for Professional  
30 Speakers; and

31 WHEREAS, Mr. De Groot is passionate about connecting cultures worldwide and has been  
32 actively involved in a number of revitalization projects, notably the revitalization of  
33 Downtown Atlanta by creating a multimillion dollar plan known as The Atlanta International  
34 Cultural Business Center; and

35 WHEREAS, he hopes to develop a Mini America Park in the State of Georgia, based on  
36 other miniature parks around the world, specifically the Madurodam theme park facility near  
37 The Hague in the Netherlands; and

38 WHEREAS, active in his community, Mr. De Groot has served on numerous boards,  
39 including Keep America Beautiful, the Atlanta Association of Interpreters and Translators,  
40 The National Speakers Association of Georgia, Leadership Sandy Springs, the World  
41 Chamber of Commerce, and serving as Vice Chair on the Advisory Committee on  
42 International Relations for the City of Atlanta; and

43 WHEREAS, in addition to establishing Atlanta as his home in 1982, Mr. De Groot was  
44 honored and proud to become an American citizen in 2006; and

45 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia must support a comprehensive economic development plan  
46 in order to position the state in the forefront of cultural, political, and economic  
47 developments in the global arena.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
49 the members of this body commend Mr. Eric Alexander de Groot on his contributions on  
50 behalf of industry, trade, and tourism and recognize him as an international liaison to the  
51 State of Georgia.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
53 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Eric Alexander de  
54 Groot.