

Senate Resolution 204

By: Senator Balfour of the 9th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Joe Rogers, Sr., and Tom Forkner; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on Labor Day in 1955, Joe Rogers, Sr., and Tom Forkner, both World War II  
3 veterans, opened the first Waffle House restaurant in the Atlanta suburb of Avondale Estates;  
4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, Joe Rogers and Tom Forkner wanted to create a restaurant that served quality  
6 food at a great value and focused on people, both the associates working in the restaurant and  
7 the visiting customers; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in 1957, the Waffle House system acquired Unit 2, starting the expansion to  
9 reach more people, and by the end of the 1970's the system had grown to 401 restaurants; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the Waffle House system saw its biggest growth during the 1990's with 1,228  
11 restaurants operating by the end of the decade; and
- 12 WHEREAS, maintaining its guiding philosophy of "Better before bigger," the Waffle House  
13 system currently has over 1,600 restaurants in 25 states; and
- 14 WHEREAS, today, Joe Rogers and Tom Forkner maintain a debt-free company and have  
15 established a successful business model which does not utilize outside contracting; and
- 16 WHEREAS, for the Waffle House system and Joe Rogers and Tom Forkner, success is  
17 measured by people, and this philosophy is evident for each and every Waffle House visitor;  
18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, for the past six decades, the Waffle House system has consistently delivered  
20 high-quality food in a friendly, comfortable environment in which diners enjoy hospitable  
21 and gracious service, and the company's success is worthy of recognition.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
23 commend Joe Rogers, Sr., and Tom Forkner for establishing restaurants that supply heartfelt  
24 and delicious meals to be enjoyed in a relaxed atmosphere and recognize the Waffle House  
25 system for over 55 years of success.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
27 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Joe Rogers, Sr., and Tom Forkner.