

House Resolution 231

By: Representatives Waites of the 60th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th, Brooks of the 55th, and Jones of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Atlanta Falcons football team and inviting them to be
2 recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Falcons football team joined the NFL in 1965 as an expansion team,
4 and in their 45 years of existence, they have compiled a record of 300-402-6 with division
5 championships in 1980, 1998, 2004, 2010, and 2012; and

6 WHEREAS, in the 2012-2013 season, the Atlanta Falcons clinched the NFC South, losing
7 only three games, garnering the top seed in the NFL playoffs, and sending three players to
8 the NFL Pro Bowl; and

9 WHEREAS, over the past five years, the Falcons, under General Manager Thomas Dimitroff,
10 Head Coach Mike Smith, and Quarterback Matt Ryan, have been one of the best franchises
11 in the NFC; and

12 WHEREAS, since the start of the 2008 season, the Falcons have recorded five consecutive
13 winning seasons for the first time in franchise history, led the NFC in number of wins with
14 57, and had the NFL's second-best winning percentage at home during the period of 2008 to
15 2010 with a .833 percentage; and

16 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Falcons football team is owned by businessman Arthur Blank and
17 eight limited partners, Ronald Canakaris, Warrick Dunn, Douglas Hertz, John Imlay, Ed
18 Mendel, Derek Smith, John Williams, and Brian Barker; and

19 WHEREAS, the franchise is also supervised by a board of advisers consisting of 11 members
20 and an executive committee consisting of 10 members, all of whom contribute innumerable
21 hours of their time to ensure the successful management of the team; and

22 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Falcons franchise began on June 30, 1965, when NFL
23 Commissioner Pete Rozelle granted ownership to Rankin Smith, Sr., who paid \$8.5 million,
24 the highest price in NFL history at the time, for an NFL franchise; and

25 WHEREAS, the Atlanta expansion franchise became the 15th NFL franchise, and they were
26 awarded the first pick in the 1966 NFL Draft, which allowed them to draft Tommy Nobis
27 from the University of Texas, making him the first-ever Falcon; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the tremendous efforts of the Atlanta
29 Falcons football team, its players, coaches, advisers, and executives, all be recognized as a
30 source of great pride to all the citizens of this State.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body commend the Atlanta Falcons for the legacy they are leaving
33 through their efforts so positively representative of the State of Georgia, and invite all its
34 members to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time designated by
35 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Atlanta Falcons football
38 team.