

Senate Resolution 599

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Gooch of the 51st, Chance of the 16th, Staton of the 18th, Miller of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending the Atlanta Falcons football team; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Falcons football team joined the NFL in 1965 as an expansion team,
3 and in their 45 years of existence, they have compiled a record of 300-402-6 with division
4 championships in 1980, 1998, 2004, 2010, and 2012; and
- 5 WHEREAS, in the 2012-2013 season, the Atlanta Falcons clinched the NFC South, losing
6 only three games, garnering the top seed in the NFL playoffs, and sending three players to
7 the NFL Pro Bowl; and
- 8 WHEREAS, over the past five years, the Falcons, under General Manager Thomas Dimitroff,
9 Head Coach Mike Smith, and Quarterback Matt Ryan, have been one of the best franchises
10 in the NFC; and
- 11 WHEREAS, since the start of the 2008 season, the Falcons have recorded five consecutive
12 winning seasons for the first time in franchise history, led the NFC in number of wins with
13 57, and had the NFL's second-best winning percentage at home during the period of 2008 to
14 2010 with a .833 percentage; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Falcons football team is owned by businessman Arthur Blank and
16 eight limited partners, Ronald Canakaris, Warrick Dunn, Douglas Hertz, John Imlay, Ed
17 Mendel, Derek Smith, John Williams, and Brian Barker; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the franchise is also supervised by a board of advisers consisting of 11 members
19 and an executive committee consisting of 10 members, all of whom contribute innumerable
20 hours of their time to ensure the successful management of the team; and

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

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

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

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 commend the Atlanta Falcons for the legacy they are leaving through their efforts so
32 positively representative of the State of Georgia, and extend their sincere best wishes for
33 future success.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Atlanta Falcons football team.