

Senate Resolution 626

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Shafer of the 48th, Chance of the 16th and Staton of the 18th

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 with a
6 regular season record of 13-3, garnering one of the top seeds in the NFL playoffs and sending
7 five players to 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 NFL; 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 a number of wins with
13 56, and tied for the NFL's second-best winning percentage at home during the period of 2008
14 to 2012 with a .825 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 assisted by a board of advisors consisting of eight members
19 of the Atlanta community: Hank Aaron, Steve Bartkowski, Bill Bolling, Dr. Robert Franklin,
20 Judge Glenda Hatchett, Ingrid Saunders-Jones, Felker Ward, Jr., and Ambassador Andrew
21 Young; 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, under Arthur Blank's ownership, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation has
29 awarded more than \$20 million in grants to more than 900 nonprofit organizations across the
30 State of Georgia in an effort to reduce childhood obesity and improve youth fitness; and

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

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

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