

House Resolution 690

By: Representatives McClain of the 100th, Ralston of the 7th, Rogers of the 10th, Abrams of the 89th, Smyre of the 135th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Thomas Henry Nobis, Jr., the first player drafted during the inaugural season for
2 the Atlanta Falcons in 1966, and inviting him to be recognized by the House of
3 Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Thomas Henry Nobis, Jr., is a former American football player; he attended
5 Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio, Texas, where he was an all-state offensive
6 end and middle linebacker; he played college football for the University of Texas at Austin
7 and professionally in the National Football League for the Atlanta Falcons; he was the
8 number one overall pick in the 1966 NFL Draft; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1965, Tommy Nobis became the first player ever drafted by the expansion
10 Atlanta Falcons and the second linebacker to be chosen first overall when he was taken in
11 the 1966 NFL draft; and

12 WHEREAS, the Houston Oilers also drafted him in the American Football League Draft; this
13 presented a dilemma and also sparked a debate; he signed with Atlanta on December 14,
14 1965, and became the first member of the Atlanta Falcons; this culminated in the nickname
15 "Mr. Falcon"; and

16 WHEREAS, Tommy Nobis joined the Falcons for their inaugural season in 1966; that season
17 he won the league's NFL Rookie of the Year, was voted to the Pro Bowl, and amassed an
18 unprecedented 294 combined tackles, which still stands today as the team's all-time
19 single-season record and is unofficially the most tackles ever credited to one player in a
20 season in NFL history; and

21 WHEREAS, in 11 professional seasons, he led the Falcons in tackles nine times, went to five
22 Pro Bowls, was named All-Pro twice, and was chosen for the NFL's "All-Decade Team" for
23 the 1960s; and

24 WHEREAS, Tommy Nobis is a member of the Atlanta Falcons' Ring of Honor, and his
25 number, 60, was the first number retired by the team; no other Falcons player has ever worn
26 the number; and

27 WHEREAS, Tommy Nobis was inducted into the Texas Longhorn Hall of Honor in 1976;
28 he was named to the All-Century Team by *Sports Illustrated* and is a member of the College
29 Football Hall of Fame, the State of Texas Hall of Fame, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, the
30 San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame, and the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame; in May, 2007, he was
31 inducted as a charter member into the Thomas Jefferson High School Alumni Hall of Fame;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Tommy Nobis is currently retired from the Falcons after 40 years as a member
34 of the organization in the front office and on the field; and

35 WHEREAS, apart from football, Tommy Nobis is the founder and a board of directors
36 member of the Tommy Nobis Center that began in 1975; the center provides youth and adults
37 with disabilities job training and employment services; he won the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.,
38 award for his work with the Georgia Special Olympics and has been named the NFL Man
39 of the Year; and

40 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
41 remarkable and distinguished gentleman be appropriately recognized.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body honor Thomas Henry Nobis, Jr., as the first player drafted during
44 the inaugural season for the Atlanta Falcons and invite him to be recognized by the House
45 of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House of
46 Representatives.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
49 Thomas Henry Nobis, Jr.