

House Resolution 1547

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Stephens of the 165th, Hitchens of the 161st, and Gordon of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Visit Savannah in its 40th year; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Visit Savannah was first created in 1976 by the Savannah Area Chamber of
3 Commerce as its first Visitors Council and named the Savannah Area Convention & Visitors
4 Bureau and later re-named in 2010 as Visit Savannah; and

5 WHEREAS, in the 40 years since its inception, Visit Savannah has played an integral role
6 in making Savannah and Tybee Island a top visitor destination as well as a success in
7 growing Savannah's economy; and

8 WHEREAS, the organization has been central with the creation and implementation of
9 attractions such as the G8 Summit, Savannah Music Festival, the Mighty Eighth Air Force
10 Heritage Center, Savannah Bridge Run, the 1996 Summer Olympic yachting events, the
11 Savannah Hockey Classic and the Rock n' Roll Marathon, which attract millions of visitors
12 from all over the world to Savannah and other parts of Georgia each year; and

13 WHEREAS, Visit Savannah has been instrumental in the marketing and promotion of
14 Savannah and Chatham County as a historical destination, highlighting its African/American
15 and Gullah-Geechee heritage experiences and importance as "Georgia's First City;" and

16 WHEREAS, the team of Visit Savannah has advanced the efforts of Savannah and Chatham
17 County for meetings, conventions and trade shows, resulting in tens of thousands of hotel
18 rooms sold and equating to tens of millions of dollars generated in visitor spending; and

19 WHEREAS, as a result of the work and ingenuity of Visit Savannah, the city has received
20 numerous accolades such as "Most Romantic Cities in the South" (#1) - *Huffington Post*,
21 March 2015, "World's Best: Cities in the U.S. and Canada" (#3) - *Travel + Leisure*, July
22 2015 and "The World's 30 Friendliest Cities" (#10) - *Condé Nast Traveler*, September 2015;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Visit Savannah has also been mindful of the preservation and improvement of
25 the quality of life for those who call Savannah home; and

26 WHEREAS, the leadership of Visit Savannah ensures that "Georgia's First City" will remain
27 a top ten visitor destination, beautiful place to live and a true symbol of Southern hospitality
28 for all of Georgia.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body commend Visit Savannah for its efforts and hard work and
31 congratulate it for 40 years of service to Savannah and the state of Georgia.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Visit
34 Savannah.