

Senate Resolution 668

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th, Miller of the 49th, Mullis of the 53rd, Cowser of the 46th and Tippins of the 37th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending John Berry for his many accomplishments and congratulating
2 him on the 25th anniversary of his first major label recording contract; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, John was born in Aiken, South Carolina, and was raised in Atlanta, Georgia,
5 where he attended Cross Keys High School; and

6 WHEREAS, he began playing guitar at age 12, performing at age 14, and recording albums
7 at age 19, citing James Taylor, Harry Chapin, and John Denver as his musical influences; and

8 WHEREAS, John played for local Young Life Clubs, including Marietta High School, in the
9 1980s, and helped to raise money for many charitable causes, including the Cystic Fibrosis
10 Society and the American Red Cross; and

11 WHEREAS, he began playing in Athens, Georgia, in 1985 following University of Georgia
12 football games and soon became a local and regional celebrity, experiencing an incredible
13 following and a lucrative career over the course of ten years; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1987, John won a regional country music contest and opened for Randy
15 Travis, the Judds, and Alabama; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1993, he signed his first major label recording contract with Liberty Records,
17 and since signing has released 24 albums, including one platinum and two gold records, and
18 has seen many of his singles reach the Top 25 Country Music Charts; and

19 WHEREAS, John was nominated for ACM Top New Male Vocalist in 1994, the Country
20 Music Association's Horizon Award, and the Top Male Vocalist Award, and also received
21 a Grammy for his No. 1 hit, "Your Love Amazes Me," in 1995; and

22 WHEREAS, John won a Grammy in 1996 for his participation in the album *Amazing Grace:*
23 *A Salute to Gospel Vol. 1* and also received a nomination for the CMA's Vocal Event of the
24 Year in 1997; and

25 WHEREAS, he was named an honorary inductee into the Modeling Association of America's
26 Modeling Hall of Fame for his contributions as a role model, and was also nominated for the
27 Mainstream Country Male Artist Award by the Inspirational Country Music Awards (ICM)
28 in 2013; and

29 WHEREAS, John returned to making records for his own company, Clear Sky Records, in
30 2002 and released his first Christian CD in 2011; and

31 WHEREAS, John is united in love and marriage to his wife of 30 years, Robin, and they are
32 blessed with three wonderful children, Taylor Marie, Sean Thomas, and Caelan James; and

33 WHEREAS, he often performs with Robin as his backup singer, as well as with his youngest
34 child, Caelan James, who plays the drums; and

35 WHEREAS, John's annual Christmas concert tour is entering its twenty-second consecutive
36 year, which marks a very special occasion for John and his family because it provides the
37 opportunity to share his faith and walk with Christ with others; and

38 WHEREAS, his Christmas concert tour frequently sells out for shows across the country,
39 with many special dates reserved for cities in his beloved Georgia; and

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

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 recognize and commend John Berry for his many accomplishments and congratulate him on
44 the 25th anniversary of his first major label recording contract.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
46 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to John Berry.