

Senate Resolution 714

By: Senators Tillery of the 19th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Watson of the 1st, Mallow of the 2nd, Hickman of the 4th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and celebrating Jesse and Emily Cole, Banana Ball, and Bananas Foster; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recognizes the extraordinary success and public support
4 of the Savannah Bananas and Banana Ball; and

5 WHEREAS, on February 25, 2016, Jesse and Emily Cole created a national phenomenon—
6 establishing The Savannah Bananas; and

7 WHEREAS, the Savannah Bananas have sold out every game since 2018, becoming one of
8 the great sports success stories and being recognized nationally as the "Greatest Show In
9 Sports"; and

10 WHEREAS, using their iconic sports platform, Jesse and Emily Cole, who already serve as
11 foster parents, created Bananas Foster; and

12 WHEREAS, Bananas Foster is a nonprofit dedicated to bringing families together by
13 celebrating the foster care community while educating and inspiring others to get involved;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Bananas Foster, the official nonprofit of Banana Ball, selects a "Bananas Foster
16 Family" (BFF) for a backstage experience at each Banana Ball game; and

17 WHEREAS, due to the iconic presence and platform of the Savannah Bananas, the need for
18 foster care parents has been featured and promoted in media such as the Today show, ABC
19 News, CBS News, Sports Illustrated, and other national outlets; and

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21 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has 9,500 children in foster care, and a need for additional
22 foster parents clearly exists; and

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24 WHEREAS, the national attention Jesse and Emily Cole, Banana Ball, and Bananas Foster
25 have engineered has allowed a spotlight to be shown on the foster family need in Georgia and
26 across the United States.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 honor Jesse and Emily Cole, Banana Ball, and Bananas Foster; celebrate the achievements
29 and success of their campaign to raise awareness of the need for foster care parents; and
30 express their gratitude for the investment and focus on the foster care community and the
31 needs of children in Georgia and nationwide.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Jesse and Emily
34 Cole, Banana Ball, and Bananas Foster.