

## House Resolution 1545

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 165<sup>th</sup>, and Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>

## 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  
6 phenomenon—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

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

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

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Jesse  
32 and Emily Cole, Banana Ball, and Bananas Foster.