

Senate Resolution 976

By: Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Wicks of the 34th, Harbison of the 15th, Sims of the 12th, Jones of the 10th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and congratulating the Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival for its outstanding
2 efforts to foster a long and steady friendship between the City of Conyers and country of
3 Japan; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the 45th Annual Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival, presented by Robins
5 Financial Credit Union with Signature Sponsor Render Turner Lake, will take place on
6 Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22, 2026, at the Georgia International Horse Park in
7 Conyers, Georgia—the 2026 theme, "Rooted Together," celebrates the festival's deep roots
8 of friendship, culture, and shared community legacy; and

9 WHEREAS, the Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival unites tens of thousands of participants
10 from the region each year to encourage a greater understanding of Japanese culture and other
11 diverse nations while celebrating 45 years of cultural history through international music,
12 dance, arts, crafts, cuisine, games, and family entertainment; and

13 WHEREAS, the history of the Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival stems from the gifting of
14 several Yoshino Cherry Blossom trees that were planted throughout the City of Conyers,
15 signifying an alliance and symbolizing friendship between communities and cultures; and

16 WHEREAS, these cherished gifts, also known as Sakura, were presented by Hideo Ogino,
17 former President of Maxell Corporation of America, to represent the friendship between
18 nations, the renewal of spring, and the ephemeral beauty of life; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1982, Maxell and the Rockdale-Conyers Chamber of Commerce held the first
20 Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival, scheduled during the blossoming of the beautiful Yoshino
21 Cherry Blossom trees, which have been the subject of admiration in Japan since the Heian
22 period more than 1,000 years ago; and

23 WHEREAS, traditionally, the Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival featured cooking classes,
24 silk flower arranging, Oriental doll exhibits, Origami demonstrations, Kabuki theater, bonsai
25 tree exhibits, karate demonstrations, and a Haiku contest—the festival continues to honor
26 these cultural connections through international performances, art displays, and educational
27 experiences; and

28 WHEREAS, due to continued growth in attendance and exhibitors, the festival relocated
29 from the grounds of Maxell to the Georgia International Horse Park in 1997, where it has
30 flourished as one of the Southeast's most anticipated spring traditions; and

31 WHEREAS, the 2026 festival also celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the Georgia
32 International Horse Park, the historic venue built for the 1996 Olympic Games, and in
33 recognition of this milestone, it will feature the Running of the Torches, a ceremonial
34 children's fun run honoring the Olympic spirit of 1996 and commemorating the venue's
35 enduring Olympic legacy; and

36 WHEREAS, the Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival continues to carry on the tradition of this
37 important community event, becoming one of the largest and most successful festivals in the
38 Southeast; and

39 WHEREAS, the festival remains deeply committed to children's education, art, and
40 community engagement through year-long student initiatives including art projects,
41 photography contests, poetry contests, and creative installations that beautify public spaces
42 and celebrate local talent; and

43 WHEREAS, partnerships with organizations such as the Conyers Rockdale Council for the
44 Arts, Rockdale County Public Schools, and the Rockdale County Chamber of Commerce
45 help cultivate young artists and promote creativity through student art exhibits, community
46 art installations, and public recognition ceremonies; and

47 WHEREAS, additional community traditions surrounding the festival include auxiliary
48 events such as scavenger hunts, student competitions, and sporting events including the
49 GQHA Cherry Blossom Speed Class and the Cherry Blossom Open at the Iron Hoof Disc
50 Golf Course; and

51 WHEREAS, through the support of the City of Conyers, the Georgia International Horse
52 Park, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners, the Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival
53 has received numerous honors, including recognition at the 2026 Kaleidoscope Awards
54 presented by the Southeast Festivals and Events Association, earning Bronze for Best
55 Children's Event, Bronze for Best Program, and Gold for Best Event with a Budget Under
56 \$75,000, one of the organization's top honors; and

57 WHEREAS, the festival was also named Best Festival in the Best of the Best Awards
58 presented by *The Rockdale Citizen* and has been recognized by the Southeast Tourism
59 Society as a Signature Event of the Southeast.

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
61 commend the City of Conyers and the Georgia International Horse Park for their dedication
62 to fostering cultural appreciation, community pride, and artistic expression through the
63 Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body congratulate the Conyers
65 Cherry Blossom Festival on the remarkable occasion of its 45th anniversary; extend sincere
66 appreciation to Robins Financial Credit Union as Presenting Sponsor and Render Turner
67 Lake as Signature Sponsor; recognize the many community partners, sponsors, volunteers,
68 and organizations whose support helps make the festival possible; and offer best wishes for
69 its continued success in strengthening unity, celebrating culture, and bringing communities
70 together for many years to come.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
72 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Conyers
73 Cherry Blossom Festival.