

House Resolution 1032

By: Representatives Harrell of the 106th, Thomas of the 56th, Anulewicz of the 42nd, Hanson of the 80th, Gardner of the 57th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Atlanta United for its contributions to the State of Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, soccer in the United States has grown exponentially over the years, resulting
4 in Atlanta United being selected by Major League Soccer (MLS) as an expansion franchise
5 on April 16, 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, Atlanta United had their first season game on Sunday, March 5, 2017, and their
7 first home game at a sold-out Bobby Dodd Stadium on Saturday, March 18, 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, Atlanta United has four supporters groups, Terminus Legion, Footie Mob, The
9 Faction, and Resurgence; and

10 WHEREAS, Atlanta United is the first expansion team to make the MLS Cup playoffs since
11 2009 and only the fourth in the history of the league; and

12 WHEREAS, Atlanta United has packed the stands, first in the oldest stadium in college
13 football, Bobby Dodd Stadium, and now in the newest stadium for actual football,
14 Mercedes-Benz Stadium; and

15 WHEREAS, the team has set records for total regular season attendance, highest average
16 attendance, twice for the highest regular season single match attendance, and the highest
17 attendance for an MLS Cup Playoff game, leading club president Darren Eales to name
18 Number 17, the jersey number given to all United fans, this year's Atlanta United Most
19 Valuable Player; and

20 WHEREAS, Darren Eales has assembled a team of exciting young players, led by their
21 coach, Tata, whose style of play has kept the fans on their feet; and

22 WHEREAS, club president Darren Eales, because of his strong leadership and vision, was
23 named the 2017 Doug Hamilton Executive of the Year by MLS; and

24 WHEREAS, as this magnificent team earned its well-deserved reputation for excellence by
25 performing with courage and precision over months of training and competition, it is
26 abundantly proper to call them champions.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize Atlanta United, the team, the owner, the management,
29 and the fans, for their contributions to the State of Georgia and hereby name them the Kings
30 of the South.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Atlanta
33 United.