

## House Resolution 1714

By: Representatives Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Martin of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, and Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending J. Mark Burkhalter upon his nomination as the United States  
2 Ambassador to Norway; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, J. Mark Burkhalter is a distinguished member of the Johns Creek community  
4 and a native son of the State of Georgia, born in Atlanta and raised in unincorporated Fulton  
5 County, now known as the City of Johns Creek; and

6 WHEREAS, he graduated from Milton High School and earned two bachelor's degrees from  
7 the University of Georgia, where he served as president of the International Relations Club  
8 and as chair of the University's Model United Nations Delegation, leading the organization  
9 to two national titles; and

10 WHEREAS, following graduation, he served on the legislative staff of Congressman Newt  
11 Gingrich, representing Georgia's Sixth Congressional District at the United States Capitol,  
12 and then returned to Georgia where he began a successful career in real estate development  
13 as principal of Burkhalter Realty and Akin Properties; and

14 WHEREAS, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1992 at the age of  
15 31, where he served continuously for 18 years representing the citizens of District 41, one  
16 of the largest state House districts of its time, and then District 50, encompassing the  
17 boundaries of the City of Johns Creek; and

18 WHEREAS, during his 18 years in the Georgia House of Representatives, Mr. Burkhalter  
19 led the charge that created the City of Johns Creek, extended the hotel/motel fee that paved  
20 the way for Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and continually strived to be a good steward of  
21 taxpayer dollars; and

22 WHEREAS, while in the General Assembly, Mr. Burkhalter served as a member on several  
23 committees, including Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment, Rules, Economic  
24 Development, Public Utilities and Telecommunications, and many others; and

25 WHEREAS, he served as Administration Floor Leader, Speaker Pro Tempore, and Speaker  
26 of the House of Representatives under Governor Sonny Perdue, making him one of the few  
27 Georgians in history to rise to that high office; and

28 WHEREAS, during his tenure as Speaker Pro Tempore, he sponsored significant and historic  
29 legislation, including HB 1321 creating the City of Johns Creek, thereby creating a paradigm  
30 shift in how the region functions and thus changing the face of the greater Atlanta  
31 metropolitan area in perpetuity; and

32 WHEREAS, serving as Speaker of the House during his resignation from the Georgia  
33 General Assembly in 2010, he then joined the international law firm, Dentons, as Senior  
34 Advisor in Public Policy and Regulation practice; and

35 WHEREAS, he further served on the State Transportation Board as the 6th Congressional  
36 Representative from 2015 to 2019; and

37 WHEREAS, on May 15, 2020, President Donald Trump nominated Mr. Burkhalter to serve  
38 as the United States Ambassador to Norway; and

39 WHEREAS, it is abundantly proper and fitting that the accomplishments of this remarkable  
40 and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
42 the members of this body commend J. Mark Burkhalter for his efficient, effective, unselfish,  
43 and dedicated public service to both the United States of America and the State of Georgia  
44 and extend sincere best wishes for continued success.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
46 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to J.  
47 Mark Burkhalter.