

House Resolution 1697

By: Representatives Park of the 101st, Cannon of the 58th, Shannon of the 84th, Nguyen of the 89th, and Smith of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Encouraging the celebration of the month of June, 2018, as LGBTQ Pride Month across the
2 United States, and the celebration of Atlanta Pride during the months of September and
3 October, 2018; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) rights are human
5 rights, to be recognized and protected by the United States Constitution; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the United States should continue to strive to ensure that the promise of equality
7 is realized for all people in the United States; and
- 8 WHEREAS, all people in the United States should be treated fairly and equally, regardless
9 of sexual orientation or gender identity; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the struggle of the Stonewall protestors and countless other LGBTQ people for
11 equality should be remembered and commended; and
- 12 WHEREAS, those who took a stand for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn in
13 New York City on June 28, 1969, are among the pioneers within the movement for LGBTQ
14 equality; and
- 15 WHEREAS, in 1974, Elaine Noble became the first openly LGBTQ candidate elected to a
16 state legislature in the United States when she won a seat in the Massachusetts House of
17 Representatives; and
- 18 WHEREAS, on January 8, 1978, Harvey Milk was the first openly LGBTQ elected official
19 in California's history; and
- 20 WHEREAS, in 1980, Democrats took a stand in support of gay rights at the Democratic
21 National Convention; and

22 WHEREAS, in May, 1996, in *Romer v. Evans*, the United States Supreme Court decided that
23 a Colorado constitutional amendment preventing the enactment of protections for gays and
24 lesbians in that state was unconstitutional; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1997, Cathy Woolard was elected to represent the 6th District of the Atlanta
26 City Council and became the first openly LGBTQ elected official in Georgia's history; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2000, Karla Drenner was elected to represent Georgia House District 66 and
28 became the first openly LGBTQ member of the Georgia General Assembly; and

29 WHEREAS, on June 26, 2003, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Lawrence*
30 *v. Texas* that, under the 14th Amendment, states could not criminalize the private, intimate
31 relationships of same-sex couples; and

32 WHEREAS, the year 2012 marked the first year that all 50 states in the United States had a
33 least one openly LGBTQ elected official; and

34 WHEREAS, on June 26, 2013, the United States Supreme Court ruled, in *United States v.*
35 *Windsor*, that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional and
36 that the federal government cannot discriminate against married lesbian and gay couples for
37 the purposes of determining federal benefits and protections; and

38 WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court, in the case of *Obergefell*
39 *v. Hodges*, decided by a vote of 5-4 that the 14th Amendment requires all states to license
40 marriages between same-sex couples and to recognize all marriages that were lawfully
41 performed out of state; and

42 WHEREAS, during the 2015-2016 legislative session, both the Georgia House of
43 Representatives and the Senate passed House Bill 757, which would have allowed
44 state-sanctioned discrimination against the LGBTQ community; and

45 WHEREAS, on March 28, 2016, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal vetoed House Bill 757,
46 stating, "I do not think we have to discriminate against anyone to protect the faith-based
47 community in Georgia....Georgia is a welcoming state, filled with warm, friendly, and loving
48 people....That is the character of Georgia. I intend to do my part to keep it that way."; and

49 WHEREAS, the month of June, 2018, should be recognized as LGBTQ Pride Month in the
50 United States to honor those who fought for the LGBTQ community and equality; and

51 WHEREAS, Atlanta Pride will be held during the months of September and October, 2018,
52 to celebrate LGBTQ progress and to remember the work that still remains; and

53 WHEREAS, the United States was founded on the principle that all persons are created
54 equal.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
56 the members of this body encourage the celebration of the month of June, 2018, as LGBTQ
57 Pride Month across the United States and the celebration of Atlanta Pride during the months
58 of September and October, 2018.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
60 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
61 public and the press.