

## House Resolution 1697

By: Representatives Westbrook of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Jackson of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, and Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Byrd Cookie Company for Baking History since 1924; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, 100 years ago in Savannah, Georgia, Benjamin Tillman "Pop" Byrd, Sr., started  
3 baking his delicious Scotch Oatmeal cookies at his small downtown bakery; and
- 4 WHEREAS, packaged in large glass jars and sold for the price of "2 for a penny," "Pop"  
5 Byrd loaded them into his Model T Ford and delivered the fresh cookies to stores around  
6 town; and
- 7 WHEREAS, by 1929 these cookies had become a favorite among locals and as the business  
8 began to grow, "Pop" decided to move the bakery closer his home on the outskirts of town,  
9 in a little community called Sandfly, where he converted a tin-sided barn into a larger bakery  
10 which he lovingly named "Byrd's Famous Cookies"; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Benjamin Tillman "Cookie" Byrd, Jr., took over his father's business in 1949,  
12 began to give tours of the bakery to locals, and opened up a retail store named the Cookie  
13 Shanty; and

14 WHEREAS, "Cookie" began packing Byrd cookies inside sturdy metal tins that were more  
15 suitable for shipping across the country, expanding the company's reach far beyond Georgia;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, in 1988, Kay Curl, "Cookie" Byrd's daughter, took the family business to even  
18 higher levels of success with exciting new flavors like the Key Lime Cooler, the first cookie  
19 to earn the Dessert of the Year designation at the National Food Association's Fancy Food  
20 Show; and

21 WHEREAS, Kay Curl began to introduce beautiful tin designs which continue to be a  
22 popular gift item today; and

23 WHEREAS, Stephanie Curl Lindley stepped in as the fourth generation owner in 2011,  
24 dramatically increasing revenue and investing millions to upgrade production equipment and  
25 developing strategic partnerships with major retailers including LL Bean, Bergdorf  
26 Goodman, and Delta Airlines; and

27 WHEREAS, Byrd Cookie Company underwent a multimillion dollar expansion at its  
28 Savannah bakery, adding 10,000 square feet of space, and more than 50 new jobs; and

29 WHEREAS, today Byrd Cookie Company is one of the largest and fastest-growing  
30 independent cookie and gift companies in the United States, having contributed over \$1  
31 billion in revenue to Georgia's economy; and

32 WHEREAS, this award-winning, family-owned Georgia business proudly operates in  
33 Savannah, Georgia, where it bakes 16 delicious flavors of Byrd's Famous Cookies, including  
34 the original Byrd flavor, Scotch Oatmeal; and

35 WHEREAS, Byrd Cookie Company produces more than one billion cookies each year,  
36 which are packed by hand into bakery bags and weighed for accuracy, before they are sold  
37 to loyal and new cookie lovers all over the world.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
39 the members of this body commend Byrd Cookie Company for 100 years of manufacturing  
40 in Georgia while remaining true to the tradition of its founder "Pop" Byrd, Sr., and thank  
41 Byrd Cookie Company for Baking History since 1924.

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