

House Resolution 354

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Carpenter of the 4th, Camp of the 135th, Martinez of the 111th, Reeves of the 99th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 25, 2023, as Georgia BBQ Day; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the oldest archaeological evidence of a barbecue was found at the Bilbo Mound
3 site dated back to 3500 BC near Savannah, Georgia. "Barbecue" is a Native American word
4 for a raised wooden platform used for cooking or storing food and was totally unknown to
5 the Europeans prior to exploration. The indigenous population gave us the word barbecue as
6 well as the basic elements of barbecue including corn, potatoes, beans, chili peppers, and
7 tomatoes. The geographical area of Georgia is home to some of the oldest and largest
8 concentrations of Native American populations in the Southeast, who frequently used
9 wooden barbecue racks to slowly cook whole animals and large cuts of meat; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1526, the first European colony and the first domesticated livestock (pigs,
11 cows, and sheep) were introduced to America on the coast of Georgia by Spanish explorer
12 Lucas Vazquez de Ayllon. The first written record of the word "barbecue" in North America
13 was by Hernando de Soto near present day Macon on March 25, 1540. The first written
14 record of a barbecue involving pork was at the Spanish mission on St. Catherine Island in
15 1604. The Spanish missions thrived in the area of Georgia for nearly 200 years, where they
16 blended Native American cooking styles and European foodways to develop the current
17 barbecue traditions and stews we have today; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1733, an inaugural barbecue celebration was given for General Oglethorpe
19 and the original colonists of Georgia by the citizens of South Carolina in appreciation of their
20 courage and bravery for settling on the southern border. Soon afterwards, the Georgia pit
21 masters, who were mostly African Americans, gained international fame and cooked for
22 United States presidents and dignitaries around the world. In 1898, reporter John Watkins
23 wrote the following for the Stand Magazine in London: "England has its roast beef, Rhode
24 Island its clambakes, Boston its pork and beans, but Georgia has its barbecue, which beats
25 them all!"; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to many first and unique barbecue accomplishments that are
27 worthy of special recognition. The first published barbecue sauce recipe was by a Georgian:
28 Mrs. A.P. Hill's New Cookbook in 1869. The first barbecue restaurant was The Rialto in
29 Albany in 1891. The first bottled barbecue sauce was Georgia BBQ Sauce in Atlanta in 1907.
30 The first packaged barbecue and Brunswick stew was Castleberry's from Augusta in 1926.
31 The second oldest barbecue sauce in production is Mrs. Griffin's from Macon since 1935.
32 The first annual celebration and early barbecue contests were Swinetime in Climax in 1975
33 and the Big Pig Jig in Vienna in 1982. The first barbecue eaten in outer space was Fincher's
34 BBQ in 1989. The top-winning man in barbecue is Myron Mixon from Unadilla. The
35 National BBQ News and The National Barbecue and Grilling Association are based in
36 Georgia. Georgia is also home to a unique barbecue sauce style that is characterized by a
37 burnt orange color, which comes from the mixture of tomato paste and mustard. It is served
38 at barbecue restaurants from Columbus to Savannah; and

39 WHEREAS, Georgia's barbecue manufacturing and retail businesses are internationally
40 recognized for their innovation and leadership in the outdoor cooking market. These leading
41 and innovative businesses include Big Green Egg, Bubba Keg, CharBroil, CharGriller,
42 GrillGrate, Kamado Joe, Lang Smokers, Lane's BBQ, MasterBuilt, Orion Smokers, Primo,

43 RecTec, Royal Oak Charcoal, and Atlanta Stove Works. The leading retailer for barbecue
44 grills and accessories is Home Depot, which is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
46 the members of this body recognize March 25, 2023, as Georgia BBQ Day.

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