

Senate Resolution 385

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Cowser of the 46th, Hill of the 4th, Mullis of the 53rd and Jones of the 25th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending J. Mark Burkhalter for his dedicated service to Johns Creek
2 and the State of Georgia; 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 attended and later purchased the Warsaw Elementary School property in
7 order to preserve history and to give homage to his former school teacher, Mrs. Annette
8 Medlock; and

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

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

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

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

24 taxpayer dollars. While in the General Assembly, Mr. Burkhalter served as a member on
25 several committees, including Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment, Rules,
26 Economic Development, Public Utilities and Telecommunications, and many others; and

27 WHEREAS, for the past four years, the Georgia Department of Transportation has greatly
28 benefited from the leadership and expertise of Mr. Burkhalter. His commitment to
29 advocating on behalf of the Sixth Congressional District has positively impacted Georgia
30 motorists and advanced the transportation infrastructure state wide; and

31 WHEREAS, he was the first Republican to author Georgia's budget since Reconstruction;
32 and

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

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

40 WHEREAS, upon his resignation from the Georgia General Assembly in 2010, he then
41 joined the international law firm, Dentons, as Senior Advisor in Public Policy and Regulation
42 practice; and

43 WHEREAS, he is noted for countless community activities, affiliations, and accolades that
44 have benefited the citizens of Johns Creek and the State of Georgia to immeasurable result;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, he is highly respected amongst his peers as a tireless proponent for his
47 community and the State of Georgia and known as a brilliant strategist in politics and
48 business; and

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

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
52 commend J. Mark Burkhalter for his dedicated service to Johns Creek, without which its
53 citizens would not have the autonomy, local control, and representation that they currently
54 enjoy, and to the State of Georgia.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
56 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to J. Mark
57 Burkhalter.