

House Resolution 391

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7th, Harrell of the 106th, Smyre of the 135th, Silcox of the 52nd, Efstration of the 104th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Arthur Blank for his vision in bringing Atlanta United to Atlanta and
2 commending Atlanta United for winning the 2018 MLS Cup; and for other purposes

3 WHEREAS, Arthur Blank had the vision to recognize the tremendous amount of soccer
4 played in Atlanta at the youth level; and

5 WHEREAS, Arthur Blank saw the increasing diversity of Atlanta and an opportunity to bring
6 a Major League Soccer (MLS) team to Atlanta; and

7 WHEREAS, Atlanta United became an expansion franchise MLS team on April 16, 2014;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, from day one, Arthur Blank has made the right decisions in hiring the personnel
10 and coaches; and

11 WHEREAS, the strategy of team president Darren Eales and technical director Carlos
12 Bocanegra assembled a team that provides excitement and exhilaration every time they step
13 on the pitch; and

14 WHEREAS, Atlanta United has excelled on the field, but also off the field, because of the
15 strong leadership of club president, Darren Eales, who was named the Doug Hamilton
16 Executive of the Year in 2017; and

17 WHEREAS, Arthur Blank invested over sixty million dollars in a world-class training
18 facility; and

19 WHEREAS, Arthur Blank understood that everything for the fans must be seen from the
20 beginning as being first class; and

21 WHEREAS, Arthur Blank wanted fans to walk into Mercedes-Benz Stadium and have it feel
22 like an Atlanta United stadium in every sense; and

23 WHEREAS, Mercedes-Benz Stadium has provided Atlanta United a superlative venue for
24 all its home games, providing its fans and visitors a unique experience that includes
25 fan-friendly food prices, cutting-edge technology with their innovative Halo Board, and
26 world-class hospitality; and

27 WHEREAS, the efforts of Arthur Blank and Atlanta United have resulted in fans setting
28 records for total regular season attendance, highest average attendance, and regular season
29 single match attendance; on July 15, 2018, Atlanta United set the regular season attendance
30 record with 72,243 attendees during a 1-1 tie against the Seattle Sounders; Atlanta United
31 fans set the record for highest attendance at an MLS Cup Championship game in history,
32 73,019; and

33 WHEREAS, on December 8, 2019, Atlanta United defeated the Portland Timbers 2-0 to win
34 the 2019 MLS Cup; and

35 WHEREAS, in only their second season, Atlanta United won the first major league sports
36 championship in Atlanta since 1995; and

37 WHEREAS, Arthur Blank's innovative vision and strategy for bringing an MLS team to
38 Atlanta has led to Atlanta United being named Major League Soccer's most valuable team.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body recognize Arthur Blank for his vision in bringing Atlanta United
41 to Atlanta and commend Atlanta United for winning the 2018 MLS Cup.

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 Arthur
44 Blank and Atlanta United.