

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR45516-LG-146B (02/05)

Sponsors: Senator Robinson (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND
2 TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ITS LONG AND STORIED
3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF
4 AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND OTHER DIVERSE STUDENTS AND
5 CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY'S FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE
6 2017 HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES NATIONAL
7 CHAMPIONSHIP.

8 Whereas, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T)
9 was founded in 1891, in response to the Second Morrill Act passed by the U.S. Congress in
10 1890; and

11 Whereas, N.C. A&T is a land-grant doctoral university, with "higher research
12 activity," as ranked by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, and is
13 among North Carolina's three most productive public research campuses; and

14 Whereas, N.C. A&T was ranked No. 2 in 2017 by U.S. News & World Report
15 among public historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and is the largest HBCU;
16 and

17 Whereas, according to U.S. Department of Education data reported in the magazine
18 *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, N.C. A&T ranks:

- 19 (1) No. 1 in the United States in undergraduate graduation of
20 African-Americans with a degree in engineering and No. 1 in graduation of
21 African-Americans with a master's degree in mathematics and statistics.
22 (2) No. 2 in the United States in undergraduate graduation of
23 African-Americans with a degree in engineering technology and
24 engineering-related studies; parks, recreation, and leisure studies; and
25 agriculture and No. 2 in graduation of African-Americans with a master's
26 degree in engineering and physical sciences; and

27 Whereas, N.C. A&T's vast alumni include: Ronald McNair, physicist and NASA
28 astronaut, who died during the launch of Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986; U.S. Representative
29 Alma Adams, who also served nearly two decades in the North Carolina House of
30 Representatives; Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr., prominent civil rights leader; the A&T Four,
31 Jibreel Khazan, Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain (deceased), and David Richmond (deceased),
32 whose brave sit-in at the Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro helped spark the
33 desegregation of dining facilities across the South; former NBA player and current Golden
34 State Warriors vice president Alvin Attles; and current university Chancellor Harold L. Martin
35 Sr.; and

36 Whereas, Chancellor Martin was listed as one of five university leaders to watch in
37 2018 by *Education Dive*, an online publication that provides news and analysis for higher



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1 education and K-12 leaders, and named among the Triad's Most Admired CEOs by the Triad
2 Business Journal in 2016; and

3 Whereas, in addition to N.C. A&T's long history of providing an academic
4 environment in which students thrive and excel, the University also has an outstanding record
5 of excellence and accomplishments in its athletic programs; and

6 Whereas, on December 16, 2017, the N.C. A&T football team (the Aggies) defeated
7 Grambling State University by a score of 21-14 to win the third annual Celebration Bowl held
8 in Atlanta, Georgia; and

9 Whereas, the Celebration Bowl determines the national champion among HBCUs;
10 and

11 Whereas, N.C. A&T won its first Celebration Bowl in 2015, when they defeated
12 Alcorn State; and

13 Whereas, N.C. A&T in 1990 and 1999 was crowned the winner of the Black
14 College National Championship; and

15 Whereas, on the road to the HBCU national championship title, the Aggies, with a
16 record of 12-0, became the first football championship subdivision HBCU team to finish a
17 season unbeaten and untied; and

18 Whereas, in the 2017 season, the Aggies defeated Garner-Webb University (45-3),
19 Mars Hill University (56-0), the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (35-31), Morgan
20 State University (49-17), South Carolina State University (21-7), Delaware State University
21 (44-3), Florida A&M University (24-20), Bethune-Cookman University (24-20), Norfolk State
22 University (35-7), Savannah State University (36-17), and North Carolina Central University
23 (24-10); and

24 Whereas, while the Aggies had two previously undefeated seasons in 1927 and
25 1943, the 2017 season was their first undefeated season as a member of the Mid-Eastern
26 Atlantic Conference (MEAC); and

27 Whereas, the Aggies have won nine MEAC football conference championship titles;
28 and

29 Whereas, several Aggies on the 2017 football team have received numerous
30 All-American honors from various organizations, including the Associated Press, STATS FCS
31 (a network that does nationwide college football polls), Phil Steele Magazine, and the
32 American Football Coaches Association; and

33 Whereas, 2017 quarterback Lamar Raynard was named MEAC Offensive Player of
34 the Year and was selected as a finalist for the Deacon Jones Award, which recognizes the best
35 black college football player in the country and will be presented by the Black College Hall of
36 Fame in February 2017; and

37 Whereas, 2017 running back Marquell Cartwright was named 2017 Celebration
38 Bowl Offensive MVP, and freshman cornerback Franklin "Mac" McCain III was named 2017
39 Celebration Bowl Defensive MVP; and

40 Whereas, the Aggies' 2017 Celebration Bowl victory was Head Coach Rod
41 Broadway's fourth HBCU national championship, and he was named 2017 MEAC Coach of the
42 Year; and

43 Whereas, the Aggies' past and current athletic prowess and victories on the field
44 give its alumni and supporters cause and frequent occasion to shout their mantra, "Aggie
45 Pride"; and

46 Whereas, N.C. A&T's outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments have
47 brought honor, distinction, and pride to the State of North Carolina and thus deserve
48 recognition by the State; Now, therefore,

49 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

50 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes and supports North Carolina
51 Agricultural and Technical State University for its dedication and commitment to educating

1 students in varied fields of graduate and undergraduate study, for its successes in creating
2 leaders in science, technology, and other areas, and for its successes in its athletic programs,
3 including football.

4 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly, on behalf of the people of the State of North
5 Carolina, congratulates the Aggies of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State
6 University on their undefeated 2017 football season and on their 2017 Celebration Bowl
7 victory.

8 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of
9 each and every member of the 2017 football team of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical
10 State University and their Head Coach Rod Broadway.

11 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
12 resolution to Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr., Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Earl Hilton
13 III, current Head Coach Sam Washington, and retired Head Coach Rod Broadway.

14 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.