

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

S

1

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 74*

Sponsors: Senators Robinson, Clark, Smith (Primary Sponsors); T. Alexander, deViere, Foushee, Garrett, J. Jackson, Lowe, Nickel, Peterson, Searcy, Steinburg, and Waddell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

February 19, 2019

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 2018 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 1890;
10 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 among
15 public historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and is the largest HBCU; and

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

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

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

34 Whereas, Chancellor Martin was listed as one of five university leaders to watch in
35 2018 by *Education Dive*, an online publication that provides news and analysis for higher



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 of
5 excellence and accomplishments in its athletic programs; and

6 Whereas, on December 15, 2018, N.C. A&T football team (the Aggies) defeated
7 Alcorn State University by a score of 24-22 during the 2018 Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl
8 held in Atlanta, Georgia; and

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

11 Whereas, N.C. A&T has won three of the four championships since the Celebration
12 Bowl began in 2015; and

13 Whereas, on the road to the 2018 national championship title, the Aggies defeated
14 Jacksonville State University, East Carolina University, Gardner-Webb University, South
15 Carolina State University, Delaware State University, Bethune-Cookman University, Norfolk
16 State University, Savannah State University, and North Carolina Central University; and

17 Whereas, the Aggies finished their 2018 season with a record of 10-2 and ranked 11th
18 in the nation in the FCS STATS Media Poll and 12th in the American Football Coaches
19 Association (AFCA) coaches poll; and

20 Whereas, the team received a ranking of No. 1 in the BoxToRow coaches poll for
21 HBCUs, an honor the team has earned three times in four years; and

22 Whereas, the Aggies also won their fourth Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)
23 title in five years; and

24 Whereas, Head Football Coach Sam Washington was named the MEAC Coach of the
25 Year, an outstanding honor for the first-year head coach; and

26 Whereas, several individual team members were recognized for their efforts during
27 the season and were selected to All-American and All-Conference teams, including Senior Micah
28 Shaw, who was named the MEAC Offensive Lineman of the Year, and Darryl Johnson, Jr., who
29 was named the MEAC's Defensive MVP; and

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

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

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

36 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes and supports North Carolina
37 Agricultural and Technical State University for its dedication and commitment to educating
38 students in varied fields of graduate and undergraduate study; for its successes in creating leaders
39 in science, technology, and other areas; and for its successes in its athletic programs, including
40 football.

41 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly, on behalf of the people of the State of North
42 Carolina, congratulates the Aggies of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
43 on their 2018 Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl victory.

44 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of
45 each and every member of the 2018 football team of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical
46 State University and their head coach.

47 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
48 to Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr., Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Earl Hilton III, and Head
49 Football Coach Sam Washington.

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