

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1556*

Sponsors: Senators Swindell; Allran, Apodaca, Berger of Rockingham, Bingham, Blake, Foriest, Goss, Jenkins, Jones, Kinnaird, Nesbitt, Purcell, Queen, Rand, Smith, Stevens, and Tillman.

Referred to: Calendar 4/4/07.

April 2, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AT
2 BARTON COLLEGE ON BECOMING THE 2007 NCAA DIVISION II
3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.

4 Whereas, the men's basketball program at Barton College in the City of
5 Wilson warrants recognition and a commendation for its outstanding achievements; and

6 Whereas, on March 24, 2007, the Bulldogs won the NCAA Division II
7 National Championship by defeating the defending national champion Winona State by
8 a score of 77-75, ending the top-ranked and undefeated Warriors' Division II record win
9 streak at 57 games; and

10 Whereas, this championship was the first NCAA title for Barton College in
11 any sport; and

12 Whereas, the men's basketball team finished in the Carolinas-Virginia
13 Athletics Conference (CVAC) season as the regular season champions and as the
14 conference tournament champions for the second straight year; and

15 Whereas, the Bulldogs set several school records during its 2006-2007 season
16 achieving a 19-1 CVAC record, winning 21 straight games, and posting an overall
17 record of 31-5; and

18 Whereas, the Bulldogs went an unbelievable 9-0 in overtime games, setting
19 the all-time, all-divisions NCAA record for OT games played and OT games won; and

20 Whereas, on the road to the National Championship, Barton College with a
21 full-time enrollment of 925 students defeated a number of teams with much larger
22 student enrollments, including Grand Valley State with 23,000 students, California State
23 San Bernardino with 17,000 students, and Winona State with 8,000 students; and

24 Whereas, several individual team members were recognized for their efforts
25 during the year including, Wilson native and senior point guard, Anthony Atkinson,
26 who was named the CVAC Player of the Year, CVAC Tournament MVP, East Regional
27 Tournament MVP, and the NCAA Division II Elite Eight MVP, and voted a first-team
28 All-American; and

1 Whereas, Anthony Atkinson scored the game-winning points during the last
2 possession of all three of Barton's Elite Eight victories, including the final 10 points in
3 the last 39 seconds of the National Championship game; and

4 Whereas, head coach Ron Lievens has coached the Bulldogs for 11 years
5 and was named the 2007 CVAC Coach of the Year, his fourth title; and

6 Whereas, the success of the men's basketball program along with the many
7 academic achievements of the students is part of a long-standing tradition of excellence
8 at Barton College, formerly Atlantic Christian College, which in 1990, was renamed in
9 honor of Barton W. Stone; and

10 Whereas, these extraordinary accomplishments of the players and coaches of
11 the men's basketball program bring great honor and distinction to the State of North
12 Carolina and deserve recognition; Now, therefore,

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

14 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses the appreciation and
15 admiration of the people of North Carolina to the men's basketball team at Barton
16 College for winning the 2007 NCAA Division II National Basketball Championship and
17 recognizes the achievements of team members: Anthony Atkinson, Alejo Barovero,
18 Spenser Briggs, Bobby Buffaloe, Jeff Dalce, L.J. Dunn, Jarrett Eason, Mike Flowers,
19 Errol Frails, Mark Friscone, Charles Gamble, Travis Johnson, David King, Brian
20 Leggett, Bobby McNeil, Sam Pounds, and Brandon Raffel; head coach Ron Lievens,
21 assistant coaches Joel Zimmerman, John Skinner, and Mark Pounds; and other staff
22 members.

23 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of the founders of
24 Barton College for their vision and contributions to the State of North Carolina.

25 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
26 resolution to President Dr. Norval C. Kneten, Athletic Director Gary W. Hall, and Head
27 Coach Ron Lievens.

28 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.