

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 708**

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Sponsors: Senator Robinson (Primary Sponsor).

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Referred to: Calendar 2/8/2018

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February 8, 2018

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



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.