

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 98*

Sponsors: Senators Shaw; Dannelly, Dorsett, Lucas, Holloman, and Malone.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 19, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, FOUNDER OF
2 THE TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE; HONORING THE INSTITUTE'S MOST
3 RENOWNED FACULTY MEMBER, GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER; AND
4 SALUTING TOM JOYNER, AN ALUMNUS OF TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE,
5 ALONG WITH THE TOM JOYNER FOUNDATION, FOR FUND-RAISING
6 EFFORTS TO BENEFIT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
7 UNIVERSITIES.

8 Whereas, Booker T. Washington founded the Tuskegee Institute (now
9 Tuskegee University) in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1881; and

10 Whereas, Booker T. Washington served as its president until his death in
11 1915, building the school into a major center for educating African Americans; and

12 Whereas, Booker T. Washington brought the Tuskegee Institute to national
13 prominence, and today the original 100 acres and student-built structures comprise the
14 Tuskegee Institute National Historic District, operated as a unit of the national park
15 system; and

16 Whereas, Booker T. Washington, a highly skilled organizer and fund-raiser,
17 was counsel to American presidents, a strong advocate of African-American business,
18 and instrumental in the development of educational institutions throughout the South;
19 and

20 Whereas, in 1897 Booker T. Washington hired George Washington Carver as
21 Director of Agriculture at Tuskegee Institute, where Carver served on the faculty until
22 his death in 1943; and

23 Whereas, at Tuskegee Institute, George Washington Carver developed his
24 crop-rotation method, which revolutionized southern agriculture; and

25 Whereas, George Washington Carver invented three hundred uses for
26 peanuts, hundreds more uses for soybeans, pecans, and sweet potatoes, and many other
27 inventions; and

28 Whereas, rather than patent and profit from his designs, George Washington
29 Carver gave them freely for the benefit of society and donated his life savings to the

1 establishment of the Carver Research Foundation at Tuskegee Institute for continuing
2 research in agriculture; and

3 Whereas, because of its well-regarded aeronautical engineering program,
4 Tuskegee Institute was selected by the United States military to train African-American
5 war pilots during World War II, over 1,000 of whom became known as the Tuskegee
6 Airmen, one of the most highly respected American fighter groups of the war; and

7 Whereas, Tuskegee alumni who have made their mark upon the nation and
8 the world include Ralph Ellison, author of the literary classic "The Invisible Man";
9 General Daniel "Chappie" James, the nation's first African-American four-star general;
10 producer/director Keenan Ivory Wayans; Roosevelt Williams, a cornerback for the
11 Chicago Bears NFL team; Grammy Award winner Lionel Richie; and Robert Benham,
12 the first Black justice on the Georgia Supreme Court; and

13 Whereas, another distinguished alumnus of Tuskegee Institute is nationally
14 syndicated radio disc jockey Tom Joyner, who is a native of Tuskegee, Alabama, and
15 the son of a Tuskegee Airman; and

16 Whereas, the Tom Joyner Morning Show reaches seven million listeners in
17 more than 120 radio markets with a program devoted to entertainment and news as well
18 as commentaries and ideas about how listeners can be politically and socially active in
19 their communities; and

20 Whereas, Tom Joyner helped launch BlackAmericaWeb.com, a web site
21 designed to provide information on issues that affect African-Americans; and

22 Whereas, Tom Joyner's accomplishments and humanitarian efforts have
23 earned him several awards and honors, including four Billboard magazine's Best Urban
24 Contemporary Air Personality awards, Impact magazine's Joe Loris Award for
25 Excellence in Broadcasting, the congressional Black Caucus' Mickey Leland
26 Humanitarian Award, and the Harold Washington Award for his efforts in the 2002
27 census campaign; and

28 Whereas, Tom Joyner was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1999 and
29 was Savoy magazine's 2002 Person of the Year; and

30 Whereas, in 1997 Tom Joyner established the Tom Joyner Foundation,
31 which, through the Tom Joyner Black College Scholarship Fund in partnership with the
32 United Negro College Fund, initiated a program to lend financial assistance to deserving
33 students attending historically Black colleges and universities around the country; and

34 Whereas, to date, the Tom Joyner Foundation has raised and contributed over
35 15 million dollars and has helped more than 5,000 students attending historically Black
36 colleges and universities; and

37 Whereas, each month the Tom Joyner Foundation selects a historically Black
38 college or university as the focus of its fund-raising efforts with the goal of eventually
39 selecting every historically Black college and university in the country; and

40 Whereas, Saint Augustine's College has been selected as the Foundation's
41 college of the month for February 2003; and

42 Whereas, on Friday, February 28, 2003, the Tom Joyner Morning Show will
43 host a sky show at Memorial Auditorium to raise funds for scholarships for students
44 attending Saint Augustine's College; Now, therefore,

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

2 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Booker T.
3 Washington, the founder of Tuskegee Institute, and George Washington Carver,
4 renowned faculty member of Tuskegee Institute.

5 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly salutes Tom Joyner, an alumnus of
6 Tuskegee Institute, for his contributions to American cultural life and for his generous
7 and dedicated efforts on behalf of historically Black colleges and universities.

8 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
9 resolution to Dr. Dianne Boardley Suber, the President of Saint Augustine's College,
10 and to Tom Joyner.

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