

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 59
Committee Substitute Favorable 2/26/03**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 24, 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 EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE TOM JOYNER FOUNDATION FOR
5 FUND-RAISING EFFORTS TO BENEFIT HISTORICALLY BLACK
6 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 Whereas, rather than patent and profit from his designs, George Washington
28 Carver gave them freely for the benefit of society and donated his life savings to the
29 establishment of the Carver Research Foundation at Tuskegee Institute for continuing
30 research in agriculture; and

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

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

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

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

18 Whereas, to date, the Tom Joyner Foundation has raised and contributed over
19 15 million dollars and has helped more than 5,000 students attending historically Black
20 colleges and universities; and

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

24 Whereas, Saint Augustine's College has been selected as the Foundation's
25 college of the month for February 2003; Now, therefore,
26 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

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

30 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly expresses its appreciation to the Tom
31 Joyner Foundation for fund-raising efforts to benefit historically Black colleges and
32 universities.

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

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