

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

**SESSION 2003
RATIFIED BILL**

**RESOLUTION 2003-3
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 59**

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, FOUNDER OF THE TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE; HONORING THE INSTITUTE'S MOST RENOWNED FACULTY MEMBER, GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER; AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE TOM JOYNER FOUNDATION FOR FUND-RAISING EFFORTS TO BENEFIT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, in 1997 Tom Joyner established the Tom Joyner Foundation, which, through the Tom Joyner Black College Scholarship Fund in partnership with the

United Negro College Fund, initiated a program to lend financial assistance to deserving students attending historically Black colleges and universities around the country; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 27th day of February, 2003.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives