

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30342-LG-490A\* (03/26)**

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Sponsors: Representatives Farmer-Butterfield and Tolson (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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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 House of Representatives, the Senate 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.