

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR50440-LG-520 (03/30)

Sponsors: Representatives Mobley and Owens (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE ELIZABETH CITY STATE
2 UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2007 CENTRAL
3 INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (CIAA) BASKETBALL
4 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP.

5 Whereas, on March 3, 2007, the Elizabeth City State University's (ECSU)
6 men's basketball team won the 2007 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association
7 Conference (CIAA) Men's Basketball Championship defeating Virginia Union
8 University by a score of 63-60 in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

9 Whereas, this victory marked ECSU's first championship in 26 years after
10 having wins in 1981 and 1969; and

11 Whereas, the ECSU men's basketball team arrived at the conference
12 tournament with a 12-15 record as the 7th seed, thus becoming the lowest seeded team to
13 ever win the CIAA Championship; and

14 Whereas, ECSU defeated four teams, Livingstone College of Salisbury, North
15 Carolina; regionally ranked Virginia State University of Petersburg, Virginia; Bowie
16 State University of Bowie, Maryland; and three-time defending CIAA champions and
17 nationally ranked Virginia Union University of Richmond, Virginia, to achieve this
18 championship milestone; and

19 Whereas, Head Coach Shawn Walker, a fifth-year coach and ECSU alumnus,
20 emerged as a leader, thereby raising his stock as an "up and coming" basketball head
21 coach; and

22 Whereas, All-CIAA sophomore guard Anthony Hilliard achieved the
23 tourney's MVP and All-CIAA senior center C.J. Pigford and Jabyron Wilson were voted
24 to the All-Tournament Team; and

25 Whereas, the entire Viking basketball squad, Mike Land, Anthony Hilliard,
26 Brian West, Anthony Butler, Lansen Leach, Olajuwon Johnson, Devin Mooring,
27 Demond Hickman, Jamal Rouse, Trent Bivens, Wallace Sam, C.J. Pigford, Jabyron

1 Wilson, and Shakiem Mitchell, through solid teamwork and quiet resolve out-performed
2 all of their opponents; and

3 Whereas, the ECSU Vikings received the John B. McLendon Sportsmanship
4 Trophy and the CIAA Team Academic Award recognition for having the highest grade
5 point average (GPA) of all CIAA men's basketball teams demonstrating their
6 well-roundedness as student athletes; and

7 Whereas, assistant coaches, Alico Dunk, Cleveland Blount, and John Hill
8 contributed significantly to the success of the team; and

9 Whereas, the success of the men's basketball program along with the many
10 academic achievements of the students is part of a long-standing tradition of excellence
11 at ECSU and a fitting memorial to Dr. Marion D. Thorpe, who presided over the
12 University during its first two CIAA championships in 1968 and 1981; and

13 Whereas, Dr. Marion D. Thorpe was a devoted leader of ESCU for almost 15
14 years, having served as the University's President from 1968 to 1972, and as the
15 University's first Chancellor beginning on July 1, 1972, when the University became
16 one of the 16 constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina. Dr. Thorpe
17 died on April 28, 1983; and

18 Whereas, the entire basketball team and staff deserve accolades for winning
19 the 2007 CIAA Basketball Tournament, which has brought unprecedented recognition
20 to Elizabeth City State University, The University of North Carolina, and northeastern
21 North Carolina; Now, therefore,

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

23 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses the appreciation and
24 admiration of the people of North Carolina to the men's basketball team at Elizabeth
25 City State University for winning the 2007 CIAA Basketball Championship and
26 recognizes the achievements of the team, head coach, assistant coaches, and other staff
27 members.

28 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Dr. Marion D.
29 Thorpe for leadership of Elizabeth City State University and his contributions to the
30 University's students, faculty, and alumni.

31 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
32 resolution to Elizabeth City State University's Chancellor Willie J. Gilchrist, Interim
33 Athletic Director Thurlis J. Little, and the family of Dr. Marion D. Thorpe.

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