

## 2020 SENATORIAL STATEMENTS

*Pursuant to Senate Rule 15, the following Senatorial Statements were approved and submitted only by the Senator(s) noted as signatories below each statement. Senatorial Statements are listed in chronological order by the date they were submitted.*

### CONGRATULATING THE FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING PANTHER REGIMENT'S 2020 SUGAR BOWL PERFORMANCE

**WHEREAS**, in May of 2018, the Franklin High School Marching Panther Regiment learned that the band, along with another band from Georgia, was selected to represent the South during the 2020 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans; and

**WHEREAS**, once the band arrived in New Orleans, the Marching Panthers participated in numerous competitions and activities, including a field show competition against the other bands. Franklin High School, the smallest of all the bands, scored a 92.05 out of 100 based in the categories of Music, Marching, General Effect, Color Guard and Auxiliary, Percussion, and Drum Major, earning first place captions in every category; and

**WHEREAS**, during the main competition, each band performed a 20-minute performance in Jackson Square. Franklin High School received a 98.64 out of 100 and was crowned the "Grand Champion – OWNER OF THE STEPS OF JACKSON SQUARE" for being the band that displayed the best in musical and entertainment performance of all 12 bands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marching Panthers also participated in the Sugar Bowl parade, which ran 2.5 miles through the entire French Quarter, including Bourbon Street and Decatur Street, to an estimated 150,000 spectators; and

**WHEREAS**, to prepare for the Sugar Bowl halftime show, the Marching Panthers and the other bands spent two days working on their music and routine for the show. During the halftime show, the bands performed for 85,000 spectators and were able to get a few seconds of air time on ESPN and Fox Sports; and

**WHEREAS**, during the bus ride home, the band was escorted by the Macon County Sheriff's Department and Franklin Police Department for the final 10 miles to the high school;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Franklin High School Marching Panther Regiment deserves to be congratulated for its participation in and achievements during the 2020 Sugar Bowl.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate and placed upon the Journal on the fourteenth day of January, 2020.

S/ Senator Jim Davis

S/ Sarah Holland  
Senate Principal Clerk

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## **SUPPORTING THOSE IMPRISONED DURING COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic is an extraordinary public health emergency that poses grave harm for incarcerated people; and

**WHEREAS**, the State prison system, which has already been operating under considerable strain, lacks a safe and adequate number of trained staff, infrastructure, and supplies, such as masks or necessary cleaning supplies to manage the COVID-19 outbreak, and is unequipped to handle a novel, deadly virus that has overwhelmed healthcare systems across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Neuse Correctional Institution is one of the prisons hardest hit by COVID-19 in the nation: in just three weeks, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has exploded from two to over 460, as roughly 60 percent of the over 700 people incarcerated there and dozens of prison staff have tested positive, and these trends continue at other prisons throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS**, many people who are incarcerated in State prisons are elderly or have serious underlying health conditions and cannot take steps to engage in the social distancing that health experts and the Governor have ordered the citizens of our State to engage in to guard against disease transmission, making them particularly vulnerable to the lethal outcomes of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, state correctional facility employees, as essential and frontline employees, place themselves, their families, and detainees at increased risk for contracting and spreading COVID-19 which challenges the State's legal duty to act and protect the safety of the public;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is imperative to support State correctional employees and their families, incarcerated people and their families and recognize the critical need for a reduction in North Carolina's prison population to ensure incarcerated people are adequately protected and can practice social distancing that is necessary to curb the spread of this deadly virus.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate and placed upon the Journal on the twenty-ninth day of April, 2020.

S/ Senator Erica D. Smith

S/ Sarah Holland  
*Senate Principal Clerk*

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**HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
RAYMOND LEE EURQUHART**

**WHEREAS**, Raymond Lee Eurquhart, favorably known as "Bro Ray," graduated from Hillside High School in 1966 before enlisting in the United States Air Force in 1967. He served in the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1973 and received the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, and the National Defense Service Medal; and

**WHEREAS**, while serving his country in England he met and married the late Susan Feely. To this union, they were blessed to have one daughter. In 1973, he attended Durham Technical Institute and earned his associate degree in Business Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, Bro Ray worked for the American Tobacco Factory until the company closed in 1987 and worked then for the City of Durham in the Plant Maintenance and Engineering Department. He was elected to the office of the Soil and Water Conservation Division, serving as District Supervisor for 20 years. Bro Ray was also a member of the Durham County Board of Elections and served as a Diversity Council Member for the City of Durham from 1998 to 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, Bro Ray opened a Community Center in the heart of the South Side on Enterprise Street. The Center was used for neighborhood meetings, after-school programs, tutoring, mentorship, and back-to-school supply drives; and

**WHEREAS**, Bro Ray received numerous honors and recognitions for the many good deeds he did for his community and the City of Durham, including the Neighborhood Hero Award in 2005 from the Inter-Neighborhood Council of Durham; the Neighborhood Hero Award of the St. Theresa Neighborhood; the Citizen Award from Indy Week News in 2010; the People's Award in 2015; and the Community Leadership Award in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Bro Ray died on March 30, 2020, at the age of 72;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Raymond "Bro Ray" Lee Eurquhart deserves to be remembered for his dedication and commitment to improving the lives of those in his community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate and placed upon the Journal on the nineteenth day of May, 2020.

S/ Senator Natalie Murdock

S/ Sarah Holland  
*Senate Principal Clerk*

**HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF  
ANDREA LYNETTE HARRIS**

**WHEREAS**, Andrea Lynette Harris grew up in Henderson, North Carolina during the heart of the civil rights movement, graduated from Bennett College in 1970, and, after college, became the Executive Director of the Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc., a community action agency in her hometown; and

**WHEREAS**, later Andrea Harris served as Director of Management and Information for the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency and was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the Historically Underutilized Business Advisory Council, where she helped to increase the growth of minority- and women-owned businesses exponentially in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, Andrea Harris was the co-founder and President of the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development in Durham, North Carolina from 1986 to 2014 and was also the co-founder of the Women and Minority Business Centers. She retired to become a Senior Fellow of the Self-Help Credit Union; and

**WHEREAS**, as a Bennett Belle, Andrea Harris believed in the value of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and created the North Carolina HBCU Alumni Advisory Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Andrea Harris served on the Board of Trustees for Bennett College for two extended terms from 1987-1997 and again between the years of 2010-2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Andrea Harris received many awards, including an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Bennett College and was a Lifetime Achievement recipient of the Triangle Business Journal's 2014 Diversity Awards;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Andrea Lynette Harris deserves to be honored as a cheerleader and creator for businesses in limited resource communities, such as minority- and women-owned firms and disabled veteran-owned enterprises, and to be recognized for her service to humanity.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate and placed upon the Journal on the second day of June, 2020.

S/ Senator Gladys Robinson

S/ Sarah Holland  
*Senate Principal Clerk*

## **RECOGNIZING “JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY”**

**WHEREAS**, on June 19, 1865, enslaved Africans in Galveston, Texas, received the news that the Civil War had ended more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 abolishing chattel slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, enslaved Africans in the Southwest have celebrated June 19th, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” as inspiration and encouragement for future generations for over 150 years; and

**WHEREAS**, “Juneteenth Independence Day” commemorates the freedom, survival, strength and resilience of an American people and encourages self-development and respect for all cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former enslaved Africans and their descendants remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of the United States recognized that we are a beautiful Nation of immigrants and ruled in favor of protecting the liberties of individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of the United States defended the right for citizens to pursue employment without fear of being discriminated against based on gender, race or sexuality, including sexual harassment, pregnancy/nursing status and differently abled; and

**WHEREAS**, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy, freedom and inclusion around the world;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, June 19th should be recognized and observed as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in North Carolina as a unifying observance of the opportunities, experiences and inclusion of all North Carolina’s citizenry.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate and placed upon the Journal on the nineteenth day of June, 2020.

S/ Senator Erica D. Smith

S/ Sarah Holland  
*Senate Principal Clerk*

**HONORING KATIE GRAYS DORSETT,  
FORMER STATE SENATOR**

**WHEREAS,** Katie Grays Dorsett was born on July 8, 1932, in Shaw, Mississippi. She passed from this life on July 6, 2020. She earned a bachelor's of science degree from Alcorn State University in 1953, a master's degree in business education from Indiana University in 1955, and a doctorate of education in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1974; and

**WHEREAS,** Katie Grays Dorsett served as an Associate Professor of Business and Economics at North Carolina A&T State University from 1955 to 1988; and

**WHEREAS,** Katie Grays Dorsett was the first African-American woman elected to the Greensboro City Council, on which she served from 1983 to 1986, and was a member of the Guilford County Board of County Commissioners from 1986 to 1993. She was appointed Secretary of the Department of Administration by Governor Jim Hunt, the first African-American woman appointed to that position, and she served honorably in that capacity from 1993 to 2001; and

**WHEREAS,** Katie Grays Dorsett was elected to the North Carolina Senate in 2003 and served until 2011. She was Majority Whip and chaired several committees, including Appropriations on General Government; Energy; Science and Technology; and the Joint Select Committee on Arts Education; and

**WHEREAS,** Katie Grays Dorsett held leadership positions in several organizations, including chair of the National Sickle Cell Disease Association of America; president of the National Association of State Chief Administrators; and chair of the North Carolina Public School Forum, and she was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS,** Katie Grays Dorsett received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Award from the North Carolina Association of Black County Commissioners, the Outstanding Civic Leader Award, and the 2008 Legislator of the Year Award;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** Katie Grays Dorsett is remembered and honored for her service to the people of the City of Greensboro, Guilford County, and the State of North Carolina.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate and placed upon the Journal on the eighth day of July, 2020.

S/ Senator Gladys A. Robinson

S/ Sarah Holland  
*Senate Principal Clerk*

**HONORING CECIL GOINS,  
FORMER SENATE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

**WHEREAS**, Cecil Goins, born in 1926 and a native of Southern Pines, served in the United States Army during World War II, and later received a baseball scholarship to attend N.C. Agricultural & Technical State University, from which he earned a B.S. in Business Administration in 1950; and

**WHEREAS**, Cecil Goins, while serving as business manager at Shaw University, mentored and advised students during the Civil Rights Movement and arranged for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to hold organizing meetings in his office; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1965, Cecil Goins became a Deputy United States Marshal, one of the first African-Americans to hold such a position. During his 20-year career in the Marshals Service, Cecil was witness to several historic events, including the Selma to Montgomery March, Muhammad Ali's Selective Service trial, and the 1967 Anti-War Protest at the Pentagon. He transported several well-known figures to trial, including Frank Lucas, Jeffrey MacDonald, and members of the Wilmington 10. Cecil retired from the Marshals Service in 1985; and

**WHEREAS**, Cecil Goins worked as a private investigator until 1992 and thereafter at the General Assembly as the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, and finally retiring in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, Cecil Goins was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, Cecil Goins married LaVerne Chavis in 1951, and together they were the proud parents of two daughters, Dr. Wanda Goins Brockington and Attorney Carol Goins of Asheville;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Cecil Goins, a distinguished and honorable citizen who served his country, worked to bring equality to all citizens, and helped to open doors for African-Americans in law enforcement, deserves to be recognized for the service he rendered his State and nation.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate and placed upon the Journal on the third day of September, 2020.

S/ Senator Dan Blue

S/ Sarah Holland  
*Senate Principal Clerk*