

## House Resolution 113

By: Representatives Stephens of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Bryant of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Gordon of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Savannah State University on the occasion of its 125th anniversary; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youths was established by the  
4 General Assembly of Georgia on November 26, 1890, as mandated by the Second Morrill  
5 Land Grant Act of 1890; and

6 WHEREAS, Richard R. Wright, Sr., was named president in 1891, and the first session of  
7 the university was held in the summer of 1891 in Athens, Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, the college awarded its first baccalaureate degree in June, 1898, to Richard R.  
9 Wright, Jr., son of Richard R. Wright, Sr., and the only member of that initial class; and

10 WHEREAS, Cyrus Gilbert Wiley, class of 1902, was the first graduate of the college to  
11 become its president in 1921; and

12 WHEREAS, the college became a member of the University System of Georgia in 1932, and  
13 its name was changed from Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youths to Georgia  
14 State College; and

15 WHEREAS, the name of the college was changed from Georgia State College to Savannah  
16 State College in 1950, and it received initial full SACS accreditation in 1955; and

17 WHEREAS, Naval Reserve Officer's Training Program (NROTC) began at Savannah State  
18 College in 1971, and Lieutenant General Walter Gaskin of the United States Marine Corps  
19 was a 1974 graduate of the NROTC program; and

20 WHEREAS, Captain Donnie L. Cochran of the United States Navy was a 1976 graduate of  
21 the NROTC program and the first African American aviator assigned to the United States

22 Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels) in 1986, and he assumed command of  
23 the Blue Angels in 1994; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1979, Dr. Margaret C. Robinson gathered gifted faculty to establish the  
25 distinctive undergraduate and graduate program in marine sciences; and

26 WHEREAS, the institution was granted university status in 1996 by the University System  
27 of Georgia Board of Regents; and

28 WHEREAS, Savannah State is the oldest public historically black college or university in  
29 the State of Georgia and the oldest institution of higher learning in the City of Savannah; and

30 WHEREAS, the university motto is "Lux Et Veritas," which means Light and Truth; and

31 WHEREAS, Savannah State University has forged a 125-year tradition of transformation and  
32 growth and continues to prepare students for civic, social, and community leadership in a  
33 global society.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body recognize Savannah State University on the occasion of its 125th  
36 anniversary.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
39 Savannah State University.