

Senate Resolution 720

By: Senator Stone of the 23rd

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 11, 2016, as Augusta University Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Augusta University was founded upon the strengths of the Medical College of  
4 Georgia, which was established in 1828 as the first medical school in the State of Georgia  
5 and is the 13th oldest in the United States and the third oldest in the Southeast, and Augusta  
6 State University, which was founded in 1925 as the first chartered junior college in the State  
7 of Georgia and became a four-year college in 1963, providing educational opportunities for  
8 all Georgians; and

9 WHEREAS, the university's nine colleges offer 127 academic programs to roughly 8,500  
10 students each year, making a valuable contribution to the future workforce and leadership of  
11 the state; and

12 WHEREAS, Augusta University is the home of the state's only public Academic Medical  
13 Center and, as such, is the heart of the state's health sciences future in innovative education,  
14 cutting edge discovery, biomedical innovation, health policy, and high quality patient care;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Augusta University is the home of the state's only public medical school, the  
17 state's only dental college, the state's flagship program in nursing education, and a nationally  
18 recognized program in the allied health sciences; and

19 WHEREAS, Augusta University is the home of the Children's Hospital of Georgia, the  
20 highest performing children's hospital in the nation, and the state's publicly supported Cancer  
21 Center, which is on track to be only the second NCI designated cancer center in the state; and

22 WHEREAS, Augusta University continues to expand its footprint to meet the growing need  
23 for health care providers in rural and urban Georgia by placing students in more than 135

24 sites across the state and providing its health care management expertise to sites such as the  
25 historic Roosevelt Warm Springs Long Term Acute Care and Inpatient Rehab Hospital; and

26 WHEREAS, Augusta University provides an important contribution to the community and  
27 the security of the nation through its partnership with the Army's Ft. Gordon, which ensures  
28 the workforce is qualified to protect the country's cybersecurity, and hosts an annual Cyber  
29 Summit that brings national leaders in cybersecurity to Georgia; and

30 WHEREAS, Augusta University fosters unique and powerful synergies among University  
31 System of Georgia institutions through its second four-year partnership campus in Athens  
32 with the University of Georgia, its academic partnership with East Georgia State College,  
33 and its work with Georgia Tech University in the field of cybersecurity; and

34 WHEREAS, Augusta University is an important contributor to its community, engaging  
35 more than 1,000 volunteers in an annual day of service for local nonprofit organizations,  
36 supporting the educational systems of Augusta-Richmond County and Columbia County, and  
37 providing free health screening services to at-risk populations throughout Georgia; and

38 WHEREAS, Augusta University continues to serve as an economic engine for the state and  
39 region through \$107 million in extramural grants and contracts and its valuable health  
40 sciences related partnerships with the Cerner Corporation, the Phillips Corporation, GW  
41 Pharmaceuticals, and other biotechnology leaders.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
43 recognize and commend Augusta University, Dr. Brooks Keel, the first president of Augusta  
44 University, university faculty, students, staff, residents, alumni, and friends for their many  
45 years of dedicated service to the health needs of Georgia citizens.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
47 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Augusta University  
48 and Dr. Brooks Keel.