

House Resolution 104

By: Representatives Burns of the 159th, Ehrhart of the 36th, Parrish of the 158th, Tankersley of the 160th, and Hitchens of the 161st

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Georgia Southern University and recognizing President Jaimie Hebert,
2 Wildlife Center Director Steve Hein, and Freedom, the University's Bald Eagle; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern University, being a 110 year old institution with nearly
5 70,000 alumni, many working and living in the State of Georgia, currently boasts nearly
6 21,000 students, 2,000 faculty and staff, and more than 100 programs of study at the
7 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels; and

8 WHEREAS, located approximately an hour east of historic Savannah, Georgia Southern's
9 more than 900 acre campus is a major part of the economic, cultural, and social life of
10 Statesboro and the surrounding communities and region; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern's accolades include being named a military-friendly school
12 for the sixth year in a row by *G.I. Jobs Magazine* and one of the nation's top eco-friendly
13 campuses in *The Princeton Review* for the sixth consecutive year; and

14 WHEREAS, the ROTC Eagle Battalion at Georgia Southern is now housed in a brand new
15 \$9.5 million military science building – constructed with funding from the Georgia
16 legislature – and is a consecutive winner of the prestigious MacArthur Award, which is
17 presented to the top eight ROTC programs in the country; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern is home to the first undergraduate manufacturing engineering
19 program in the Southeastern United States; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern is now welcoming the opportunities and benefits of a
21 consolidation process with Armstrong State in Savannah in which Georgia Southern
22 University will become the fourth largest university in the state with more than 27,000
23 students; and

24 WHEREAS, the new Georgia Southern University will combine the best of both institutions
25 greatly enhancing the school's impact on southeastern Georgia and the coastal region with
26 highly lauded programs in health sciences, business, public health, engineering, information
27 technology, the sciences, and the arts; and

28 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern, with multiple academic and research facilities in Statesboro,
29 Savannah, and St. Catherines Island, will continue to become a streamlined pipeline of talent
30 for the region and the state through a student-centered focus on research and student success;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Dr. Jaimie Hebert became the thirteenth president of Georgia Southern
33 University on July 1, 2016; and

34 WHEREAS, prior to joining Georgia Southern, Dr. Hebert served as the provost and vice
35 president for academic affairs at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where,
36 under his direction, the school added several doctoral, master's, and undergraduate degrees,
37 and he played an integral role in securing gifts of more than \$35 million for academic
38 programs; and

39 WHEREAS, Director Steve Hein, as director of the Georgia Southern Wildlife Center, works
40 to represent the University through multiple outreach efforts including the handling of
41 Freedom, an American Bald Eagle representing the University's strength and determination
42 to bettering southeast Georgia, the state, the nation, and the world as well as improving the
43 future of the students, employees, alumni, and communities touched by the University's
44 work.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
46 the members of this body commend Georgia Southern University on its many
47 accomplishments and recognize President Jaimie Hebert, Wildlife Center Director Steve
48 Hein, and Freedom for their contributions to Georgia Southern University and the State of
49 Georgia.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
51 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
52 Georgia Southern University, President Jaimie Hebert, and Director Steve Hein.