

## House Resolution 104

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

## 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.