

House Resolution 950

By: Representatives Jones of the 53rd, Smyre of the 135th, Gardner of the 57th, Thomas of the 56th, Metze of the 55th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 14, 2018, as Clark Atlanta University Day at the state capitol, and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University was established in 1988 upon the consolidation of its
4 two parent institutions Atlanta University, established in 1865, and Clark College,
5 established in 1869; and

6 WHEREAS, the university's four colleges offer 38 academic programs to roughly 4,000
7 students each year, making a valuable contribution to the future workforce and leadership of
8 Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the home of the Center for Cancer Research and
10 Therapeutic Development which thrives under the leadership of Georgia Research Alliance
11 Eminent Scholar Shafiq A. Khan, Ph.D., and, as such, is the only Historically Black Colleges
12 and Universities (HBCU) member of the Georgia Research Alliance in addition to being the
13 nation's largest academic prostate cancer research center; and as a result of its breakthrough
14 research, presently has five patents and patents pending; and

15 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the home of Jazz 91.9 FM-WCLK, an NPR affiliate,
16 and is Metro Atlanta community's only jazz radio station and this year celebrates 41 years
17 of service to the community; and

18 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the home of one of the nation's most prolific
19 undergraduate Mass Media Arts program, responsible for nurturing talent such as Sheldon
20 "Spike" Lee, Nnegest Likke, Jacque Reed, and Eva Marcille; and

21 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the home of the Center for Functional Nanoscale
22 Materials, the Center for Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation, the Center for
23 Biomedical and Bimolecular Research, and the Center for Cyberspace and Information

24 Assurance, all pushing at the boundaries of cutting-edge science, technology, innovation, and
25 discovery in meaningful and profound ways; and

26 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the home of the Center for Innovation and
27 Entrepreneurship Development, one of the nation's most progressive forums integrating
28 traditional academics, market research, and intelligence and innovation to increase the level
29 of competitiveness among Clark graduates and local entrepreneurs; and

30 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the only private historically black university to host
31 a chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, America's most prestigious honor society for all academic
32 disciplines, in addition to Golden Key International Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma Honor
33 Society, and Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, as well as several discipline-specific honor
34 societies; and

35 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University, also known as "Panther Nation," is home to the 2017
36 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Champions, coached by
37 former NBA standout Darrel Walker; and

38 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is an important contributor to local, regional, and
39 national communities, engaging more than 1,000 student and faculty volunteers annually in
40 service to local nonprofit organizations, supporting the educational systems of Fulton,
41 DeKalb, Cobb, Rockdale, and nearby counties, and continues to reach beyond the campus
42 footprint to address critical issues through peaceful, educational means in communities
43 stretching from hurricane-stricken Houston, Texas, to Paris, France, to Beijing, China, and
44 myriad points in between; and

45 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University has produced stellar alumni who constitute
46 irreplaceable threads in the fabric of America, including: Ralph David Abernathy, Marva
47 Collins, James Weldon Johnson, Kenny Leon, Lucy Craft Laney, Bomani Jones, Fletcher
48 Henderson, and of course, state senators Horacena Tate and Vincent Fort, and is now under
49 the leadership of its fourth President, Ronald A. Johnson, Ph.D., who is applying his
50 considerable expertise, wisdom, and passion for students toward Mobilizing for the Future
51 and Igniting New Possibilities with IDEAS – innovation and entrepreneurship, design and
52 systems thinking, environmental sustainability, the arts and humanities and the sciences and
53 technology – that matter.

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
55 the members of this body recognize and commend Clark Atlanta University, Dr. Ronald A.
56 Johnson, the university faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends for their many years of
57 dedicated service to the higher education of Georgia's citizens and for attracting young
58 scholars from across the nation to our great state.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
60 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Clark
61 Atlanta University and Dr. Ronald A. Johnson.