

Senate Resolution 131

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and congratulating Carver High School for participating in the Peach Bowl
2 Parade; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, before the Georgia Bulldogs and Ohio State Buckeyes played in the College
4 Football Playoff semifinal at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, the Carver High School
5 band marched in the one-mile Peach Bowl Parade on December 31; and

6 WHEREAS, Carver seniors Marquis Alfred and Brandon Boden put into perspective how
7 much this band has grown; and

8 WHEREAS, the members had dwindled to around 30 by the time assistant director Lorenzo
9 Manuel was elevated to director two years ago. Manuel instilled the discipline the program
10 needed, fun followed, and the band quadrupled its members to around 120; and

11 WHEREAS, "it took a lot of patience," Marquis, 17, the band's head drum major, told the
12 *Ledger-Enquirer*. "It took a lot of practice. It took a lot of rehearsing. It took a lot of reading
13 music. It's not an easy process, but it's a process that you appreciate"; and

14 WHEREAS, "it's hard work," Brandon, 17, the band's captain, told *Ledger-Enquirer*. "People
15 wanted to quit, but we're taking people that never touched an instrument before, and we're
16 transforming them into musicians. Instead of sitting at home after school, they joined the
17 band at Carver, and their whole life changed"; and

18 WHEREAS, they played during a college football bowl game's festivities for the first time
19 in the program's history. "You don't hear about bands being selected for these types of things
20 from where I come from," Brandon said. "...we get to experience what some would call a
21 dream come true"; and

22 WHEREAS, Carver is among approximately 20 high school bands selected out of an
23 estimated 100 applicants to march in the parade, Manuel said. "It's a great opportunity for
24 our young people...the kids we have here are hard workers. They put forth a lot of effort...
25 our administration supports us." Manuel credits the band members and alumni for helping
26 him recruit other students. "They have taken ownership of their program," he said. "...young
27 people like to have fun and input, but most of all, they like structure"; and

28 WHEREAS, he models his approach after Oliver Boone, who was the band director at
29 Kendrick High School, where Manuel graduated in 1994. Recalling the joy and pride of
30 playing in the Rose Bowl parade with Kendrick, Manuel is committed to giving his students
31 a similar opportunity. "A lot of times, kids just need that experience to kind of help their
32 self-esteem," he said. "We produce great kids at Carver High School"; and

33 WHEREAS, Manuel became drum major at Albany State University and graduated in 1999
34 with a bachelor's degree in music. He teaches band and chorus at Carver, where he was
35 assistant band director for 15 years before becoming director in 2020. He thanked Carver
36 principal Christopher Lindsey for allowing him to "lead and impact lives of young people."

37 Marquis is grateful for Manuel creating what he called a "family-type bond" in the band.
38 "He's a very patient man," Marquis said. "He's a very hardworking man, very intelligent, very
39 passionate about what he does, very caring, loving and just open-minded. You can tell him
40 anything, and he can give you advice just like that."

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 recognize and commend Carver High School for its exemplary participation in the Peach
43 Bowl Parade and extend best wishes for continued success.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Carver High
46 School.