

Senate Resolution 166

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Esteves of the 6th and James of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 21, 2023, as Clark Atlanta University Day at the state capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University (CAU) was established in 1988 upon the consolidation
4 of its two parent institutions, Atlanta University, founded in 1865 by the American
5 Missionary Association, and Clark University, which was later changed to Clark College by
6 the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) founded in (1869);
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University was the nation's first four-year liberal arts college to
9 serve a primarily African American student population; and

10 WHEREAS, the university's four schools offer 40 academic programs to 3,920 students
11 annually, making a valuable contribution to the future workforce, including training for
12 technology, engineering, and education, as well as contributing to the leadership of Georgia;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University's economic impact to the state of Georgia consists of
15 \$541 million in combined gross sales, a direct impact of \$400 million, and 3,282 full and
16 part-time jobs that contribute to Georgia's economy; and

17 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is a founding member of the Georgia Research
18 Alliance and the home of the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development,
19 which has the distinction of being one of the nation's largest academic prostate cancer
20 research centers, providing opportunities for high caliber basic and translational research,
21 training the next generation of scientists in cancer research, and offering an educational
22 environment for community outreach, prevention, early detection, and treatment of prostate
23 cancer; and

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

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

33 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is an important contributor to local, regional, and
34 national communities, engaging more than 1,000 student and faculty volunteers annually in
35 service to local nonprofit organizations; supporting the educational systems of Fulton,

36 DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, Rockdale, and nearby Georgia counties; and continuing to reach
37 beyond the campus footprint to address critical issues through purposeful service; and

38 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the home of WCLK Jazz 91.9 FM, Atlanta's jazz
39 station and an *NPR* affiliate celebrating 49 years of service to the community; and

40 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University has produced stellar alumni who represent
41 irreplaceable threads in the fabric of the State of Georgia and America as a whole, including:
42 Fletcher Henderson, AU 1919; Grace Towns Hamilton, AU '27; Irma Jackson Clayton
43 Wertz, AU '35; Evelyn Gibson Lowery, CC '46; Mary Frances Early, CC '57; the Honorable
44 Brenda Hill Cole, AU '67; State Representative Shelia Jones, CC '78; Kenny Leon, CC '79;
45 Helen Smith Price, AU '81; State Senator Horacena Tate, AU '88, CAU '92; Anthony White,
46 CAU '99; Bomani Jones, CAU '01; Tharon Johnson, CAU '02; and Lorin Crawford, CAU
47 '13; and

48 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is now under the leadership of President George T.
49 French Jr., PhD, who is now applying his considerable experience, expertise, wisdom, and
50 passion for advocacy toward a better future for the young men and women of Clark Atlanta
51 University; and

52 WHEREAS, under his leadership in 2022, CAU has embarked on a \$250 million
53 comprehensive endowment campaign; a few initiatives within the campaign include
54 innovative research to help cure prostate cancer and Alzheimer's disease, creating new
55 avenues of entrepreneurship, and finding ways to eradicate social and racial injustices; and

56 WHEREAS, under the leadership of President French, Clark Atlanta University has received
57 the largest unrestricted donation in the university's history from philanthropist Mackenzie

58 Scott totaling \$15 million; he has further stewarded the addition of the Propel Center, which
59 will support Clark Atlanta University, the Atlanta University Center, and the entire HBCU
60 community, which includes more than 100 colleges and universities, through a robust virtual
61 platform accessible to all HBCU students and faculty. The founding partners, Apple and
62 Southern Company, along with strategic partner the Walt Disney Co., have each made major
63 investments toward the development and launch of the center.

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
65 recognize and commend Clark Atlanta University; Dr. George T. French Jr., president of
66 Clark Atlanta University; and its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends for their many
67 years of dedicated service to the higher education of Georgia's citizens and for attracting
68 young scholars from across the nation to our great state.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
70 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Clark Atlanta
71 University and President George T. French Jr.