

2012 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 135

Offered January 30, 2012

Commending Norfolk State University on hosting the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission's 2010 Signature Conference.

Patron—Lucas

WHEREAS, the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission was created to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Speaker of the House of Delegates William J. Howell, chair of the legislative commission, and the Honorable Algie T. Howell, Jr., were instrumental in Norfolk State University's selection as host of the second Signature Conference; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk State University welcomed participants to the Signature Conference entitled "Race, Slavery and the Civil War: The Tough Stuff of American History and Memory," which was held on campus Friday, September 24, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Governor McDonnell, along with a delegation of senators and delegates, was present to greet conference participants; and

WHEREAS, over 1,000 history enthusiasts, including many of America's Civil War historians, registered and actively participated in panel discussions and visits to Civil War sites and attended a Civil War book fair; and

WHEREAS, Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, provided invaluable organizational assistance to NSU professors Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander and Dr. Charles Ford, who served as the University's cochairs for the Signature Conference and lent their expertise to a greater understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander gave a fascinating presentation entitled "Waterways to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in Hampton Roads" at the Signature Conference; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend Norfolk State University on hosting the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission's 2010 Signature Conference; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution to be presented to Dr. Tony Atwater, president of Norfolk State University, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and gratitude for the University's support of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission.

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