

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Tuesday, March 31, 2026, as Southern University Day at the Capitol and to commend Southern University for one hundred forty-six years of commitment to impact and excellence in industry, research, and public service.

WHEREAS, the Southern University System is the nation's only historically Black university system and is comprised of five campuses that collectively advance academic excellence, research, and community engagement: Southern University and A&M College, the Southern University Law Center, and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Baton Rouge; Southern University at New Orleans; and Southern University at Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Southern University and A&M College, the flagship of the Southern University System and a Carnegie Research 2 institution, is opening a \$48M state-of-the-art complex to enhance STEM education and collaboration with academic and industry partners and a Global Innovation and Welcome Center; the university celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Southern University Museum of Art, Southern University "Human Jukebox" Marching Band's selection as ESPN's 2025 Band of the Year, and the School of Nursing's selection as the best nursing school in the U.S. by Nurse.org for the second consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) celebrates seventy years of excellence, access, and service to the Greater New Orleans community; SUNO has expanded its cultural and academic impact by hosting the first-ever live Egyptian-commissioned replica King Tutankhamun exhibition at an HBCU, and the university celebrates the SUNO Men's Basketball Team for capturing the 2026 HBCUAC Tournament Championship and bringing the title home for the first time since 2012; and

WHEREAS, Southern University Law Center is constructing a new Clinical Legal Education Building, which marks the beginning of a state-of-the-art facility designed to expand hands-on training opportunities for students while strengthening access to justice for individuals and families throughout the Baton Rouge community, and renovating its Oliver B. Spellman Law library; and

WHEREAS, Southern University at Shreveport continues to strengthen workforce development and community impact in North Louisiana through the Aerospace Technology Center and serves as the region's premier training hub for aviation technicians; it is advancing entrepreneurship through the Roy Griggs School of Business and expanding community partnerships, including a re-entry workforce training initiative with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office; the university also facilitates a Mobile Health Unit that delivers critical preventive care, screenings, and dental services to underserved communities across Northwest Louisiana, while providing students with invaluable hands-on clinical training; and

WHEREAS, the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, which celebrated its 83rd Annual Livestock and Poultry Show, continues to advance agricultural innovation and workforce development as the only historically black college or university selected as a site for the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service laboratory; the center established a flourishing demonstration and research vineyard through its Viticulture and Enology Program, which provides hands-on experience for grape growers and vintners throughout Louisiana, and it aims to increase the number of students entering the field of veterinary medicine by filling critical gaps in access, contact hours, and hands-on exposure for high school and undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS, the Southern University Laboratory School, serving students pre-K through high school, continues its mission of providing a nationally-competitive college preparatory education to each of its students; the school's Lady Kittens basketball team secured their third-consecutive Louisiana High School Athletic Association Division IV Select State Championship; and

WHEREAS, Southern University Day at the Capitol is a powerful gathering of legislators, community members, students, and alumni that celebrates the system's enduring legacy and continued impact on education, leadership, and community advancement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Southern University System on the occasion of its one hundred forty-sixth anniversary and does hereby recognize Tuesday, March 31, 2026, as Southern University Day at the Capitol.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES