

Senate Resolution 386

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Kirk of the 13th, Sims of the 12th, Orrock of the 36th and Lucas of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's 107th anniversary; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) was instituted when the
4 Georgia General Assembly enacted Public Law 448 on August 18, 1906, establishing a
5 state-run Agricultural and Mechanical School in each of Georgia's 12 congressional districts;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, on November 23, 1906, Tift County sent 30 delegates to Albany to bid to
8 become the site for the Second District A&M School, and, led by the determined effort of
9 Mr. Henry H. Tift, Tifton outbid Camilla, Pelham, Ashburn, and Albany; and

10 WHEREAS, the Second District A&M School opened its doors for classes on February 20,
11 1908; with three instructors; 27 students; and three buildings, Tift Hall, Lewis Hall, and
12 Herring Hall, which still stand today on the front of the campus; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1924, its name was changed to the South Georgia A&M College, and in
14 1929, its name changed again, this time to the Georgia State College for Men, making it the
15 first senior college for men in South Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1933, it was renamed Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in honor of a
17 Georgia signer of the Constitution and the first president of the University of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, today, the college bears strong witness to its roots, by being named the state's
19 Official Agricultural State College, where the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources
20 remains the largest school of study with over 1,000 students; and

21 WHEREAS, ABAC is proud to keep the state's agricultural heritage alive through the
22 operation of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, the state's official
23 museum of agriculture; and

24 WHEREAS, since 1908, the college has expanded its curriculum to include 49 programs of
25 study, which are preparing the state's next leaders in the fields of agriculture, business, health
26 care, the humanities and arts, science and mathematics, and social sciences; and

27 WHEREAS, today, ABAC embraces Georgia's search for solutions to issues facing our rural
28 areas with the concentration of Politics and Modern Cultures in the Rural Studies program,
29 which continues to send highly skilled graduates into government agencies, not for profit
30 organizations and local businesses; and

31 WHEREAS, the courses are overseen by some the most respected and dedicated instructors
32 from around the world including Dr. Joseph Njoroge, Chair of the History and Political
33 Science Department and Full Professor; Dr. James Galt-Brown and Mouyyed Hassouna,
34 M.A., Associate Professors; and Dr. Hans Schmeisser, Dr. Russell Pryor, Dr. Alison Mann,
35 and Dr. Ben Wright, Assistant Professors; and

36 WHEREAS, the college offers outstanding programs in humanities, social science, business,
37 science and mathematics, and health and physical education to 3,458 students from 155
38 Georgia counties, 19 other states, and 24 countries, and it housed more students than ever
39 before on campus with over 1,300 students living in the modern ABAC Place apartments and
40 the ABAC Lakeside complex; and

41 WHEREAS, the intercollegiate sports program at ABAC is one of the best in this state with
42 five national championships to its credit, two in men's tennis and three in softball; and

43 WHEREAS, ABAC is proud of its many alumni, including the Honorable George T. Smith,
44 the only man in the history of Georgia to be elected to all three branches of state government;
45 the Honorable Cathy Cox, the first woman elected Secretary of State and member of the
46 House of Representatives; President James "Jimmy" Earl Carter, President of the United
47 States, Governor of Georgia, and member of the State Senate; the Honorable George Busbee,
48 the first Governor to be elected to two consecutive terms and member of the House of
49 Representatives; and the countless others who have proudly served this great state.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
51 join in the celebration of the 107th anniversary of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College,
52 congratulate it on its past accomplishments, and look forward to its continued success and
53 achievement.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
55 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Abraham Baldwin
56 Agricultural College.