

Senate Resolution 724

By: Senator Tate of the 38th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 18, 2020, as Clark Atlanta University Day at the state capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University was established in 1988 upon the consolidation of its
4 two parent institutions, Atlanta University founded in 1865 and Clark College founded in
5 1869; and

6 WHEREAS, the university's four colleges offer 38 academic programs to roughly 4,000
7 students annually, making a valuable contribution to the future workforce and leadership of
8 Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is a founding member of the Georgia Research
10 Alliance and the home of the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development,
11 which has the distinction of being one of the nation's largest academic prostate cancer
12 research centers, providing opportunities for high-caliber basic and translational research,
13 training the next generation of scientists in cancer research, and offering an educational
14 environment for community outreach, prevention, early detection, and treatment of prostate
15 cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the home of the Center for Innovation and
17 Entrepreneurship Development, one of the nation's most progressive forums integrating
18 traditional academics, market research, and intelligence and innovation to increase the level
19 of competitiveness among its graduates and local entrepreneurs; and

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

24 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is an important contributor to local, regional, and
25 national communities, engaging more than 1,000 student and faculty volunteers annually in
26 service to local nonprofit organizations and supporting the educational systems of Fulton,
27 DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, Rockdale, and nearby counties, and it continues to reach beyond
28 the campus footprint to address critical issues through purposeful service; and

29 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is the home of Jazz 91.9 WCLK, Atlanta's Jazz
30 Station, an NPR affiliate celebrating 46 years of service to the community; and

31 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University has produced stellar alumni who constitute
32 irreplaceable threads in the fabric of the State of Georgia and America as a whole, including:
33 Fletcher Henderson, AU '19; Grace Towns Hamilton, AU '27; Irma Jackson Clayton Wertz,
34 AU '35; Evelyn Gibson Lowery, CC '46; Mary Frances Early, CC '57; The Honorable Brenda
35 Hill Cole, AU '67; State Representative Sheila Jones, CC '78; Kenny Leon, CC '79; Helen
36 Smith Price, AU '81; State Senator Horacena Tate, AU '88, CAU '92; Anthony White, CAU
37 '99; Bomani Jones, CAU '01; Tharon Johnson, CAU '02; and Lorin Crawford, CAU '13; and

38 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University is now under the leadership of President George T.
39 French Jr., PhD, one of the nation's longest tenured and accomplished presidents, having
40 served at a sister HBCU for nearly 15 years before ascending to the presidency of Clark
41 Atlanta University. President French is now applying his considerable experience and
42 expertise, wisdom, and passion for advocacy toward a better future for the young men and
43 women of Clark Atlanta University.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
45 recognize February 18, 2020, as Clark Atlanta University Day at the state capitol and
46 commend Clark Atlanta University, Dr. George T. French Jr., president of Clark Atlanta
47 University, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends for their many years of dedicated
48 service to the higher education of Georgia's citizens and for attracting young scholars from
49 across the nation to our great state.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
51 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Clark Atlanta
52 University and Dr. George T. French Jr.