

HR 8025

2017

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Bethune-Cookman University and  
3 designating March 22, 2017, as "Wildcat Day" in the  
4 State of Florida.

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6 WHEREAS, on October 3, 1904, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, with  
7 "five girls, \$1.50, and faith in God," founded the Daytona  
8 Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls in  
9 Daytona Beach, which would become Bethune-Cookman College in  
10 1931, and

11 WHEREAS, through the power of God and the tenacity of Mary  
12 McLeod Bethune, the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training  
13 School for Negro Girls grew from an all-girls elementary school  
14 to Bethune-Cookman College, launching its first master's degree  
15 program in 2006 and achieving university status in early 2007,  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, with a current total enrollment of 3,934 students,  
18 Bethune-Cookman University offers 43 degrees through 12 academic  
19 schools and colleges, including 7 graduate programs, and offers  
20 11 online degrees; maintains intercollegiate athletic programs  
21 and instrumental and choral groups that have achieved national  
22 recognition; and is one of three private historically black  
23 colleges and universities in the state, and

24 WHEREAS, on March 20, 2013, after serving 11 months as  
25 interim president, Dr. Edison O. Jackson accepted the

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26 | appointment to become the sixth president of Bethune-Cookman  
27 | University, bringing with him a wealth of experience and  
28 | knowledge in administering the affairs of educational  
29 | institutions, and

30 |       WHEREAS, during the tenure of President Edison O. Jackson,  
31 | Bethune-Cookman University has received increased philanthropic  
32 | giving and has maintained accreditations with the Southern  
33 | Association of Colleges and Schools, the Florida State Board of  
34 | Education, and the United Methodist Church Board of Higher  
35 | Education, and

36 |       WHEREAS, the university has experienced tremendous growth  
37 | through remodeling the dining hall; renovating Gertrude Heyn  
38 | Memorial Chapel; adding four floors to the Harrison Rhodes  
39 | Memorial Social Science Building; and constructing two state-of-  
40 | the-art residence halls, which allows the university to house  
41 | 3,000 students, the most in the school's history, and

42 |       WHEREAS, Bethune-Cookman University develops global leaders  
43 | who are committed to service, lifelong learning, and diversity  
44 | by providing a faith-based environment of academic excellence  
45 | and transformative experiences and since 1943 has graduated more  
46 | than 18,400 students, and

47 |       WHEREAS, the university's motto, "Enter to learn. Depart to  
48 | serve," represents a call to action for 21st-century learners to  
49 | empower themselves and others, connect with their communities,  
50 | and influence the world around them, NOW, THEREFORE,

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Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

That March 22, 2017, is designated as "Wildcat Day" in the State of Florida in recognition of Bethune-Cookman University's contribution as an outstanding institution of higher education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to the president of Bethune-Cookman University, Dr. Edison O. Jackson, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.