

HR 8015

2018

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Bethune-Cookman University and
3 designating January 11, 2018, 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 4,140 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 July 13, 2017, after serving as the general
25 counsel for two years, Judge Hubert L. Grimes (Retired) accepted

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26 | the appointment to become the interim president of Bethune-
27 | Cookman University, bringing with him 25 years of judicial and
28 | administrative experience, and

29 | WHEREAS, during Interim President Grimes' first 90 days,
30 | the Bethune-Cookman University community adopted the acronym
31 | TIP. Pledging Transparency, Integrity and Positive Action. To
32 | that end, Bethune-Cookman University has maintained
33 | accreditations with the Southern Association of Colleges and
34 | Schools, the Florida State Board of Education, and the United
35 | Methodist Church Board of Higher Education, and

36 | WHEREAS, the university has experienced tremendous growth:
37 | with the highest enrollment in the school's history and the
38 | largest freshman class of over 1,300 students; becoming the
39 | first college or university in Florida and second historically
40 | black college or university in the nation to obtain United
41 | States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) Certification; and
42 | with certification of the online college in 25 states and the
43 | Bahamas, and

44 | WHEREAS, Bethune-Cookman University develops global leaders
45 | who are committed to service, lifelong learning, and diversity
46 | by providing a faith-based environment of academic excellence
47 | and transformative experiences and since 1943 has graduated more
48 | than 19,000 students, and

49 | WHEREAS, the university's motto, "Enter to learn. Depart to
50 | serve," represents a call to action for 21st-century learners to

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51 empower themselves and others, connect with their communities,
52 and influence the world around them, NOW, THEREFORE,

53

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

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57 That January 11, 2018, is designated as "Wildcat Day" in
58 the State of Florida in recognition of Bethune-Cookman
59 University's contribution as an outstanding institution of
60 higher education.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
62 presented to the interim president of Bethune-Cookman
63 University, Judge Hubert L. Grimes (Retired), as a tangible
64 token of the sentiments expressed herein.