

Resolution

HONORING

DR. PREZELL R. ROBINSON

*For His Distinguished Service to Public Education and the State of North Carolina
- In Memoriam.*

- WHEREAS,** the North Carolina State Board of Education recognizes with profound gratitude those individuals whose vision, wisdom, and dedication have advanced public education and improved the lives of generations of North Carolinians; and
- WHEREAS,** *Dr. Prezell R. Robinson* devoted his life to education as a scholar, educator, administrator, diplomat, and public servant, leaving an extraordinary legacy that spanned more than six decades of leadership in North Carolina, the nation, and the international community; and
- WHEREAS,** Governor James Holshouser appointed *Dr. Robinson* to the North Carolina State Board of Education in 1973, and he was subsequently reappointed by Governors James B. Hunt, Jr. and James G. Martin, serving with distinction for twenty-six years until 1999; and
- WHEREAS,** from 1994 through 1999, *Dr. Robinson* served as Vice Chairman of the North Carolina State Board of Education, providing thoughtful leadership, sound judgment, and steadfast commitment to the constitutional promise of a high-quality public education for every child in North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** throughout his tenure on the State Board of Education, *Dr. Robinson* worked collaboratively with fellow Board members, governors, legislators, educators, and communities to strengthen public education and improve educational opportunity for students across the State; and
- WHEREAS,** *Dr. Robinson* also served with extraordinary distinction as the eighth President of Saint Augustine's University, leading the institution from 1967 until 1995 and overseeing a period of remarkable academic growth, institutional advancement, and campus development while preparing generations of students for lives of leadership and service; and
- WHEREAS,** after completing his presidency, *Dr. Robinson* continued to serve Saint Augustine's University as President Emeritus, professor, mentor, and trusted advisor, extending a relationship with the institution that spanned more than eighty years as student, alumnus, faculty member, administrator, president, and educator; and
- WHEREAS,** *Dr. Robinson's* influence extended well beyond North Carolina through his service as President of the United Negro College Fund and Chair of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, where he championed educational excellence and expanded opportunities for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the students they serve; and
- WHEREAS,** *Dr. Robinson's* distinguished career also included service as a United States Fulbright Scholar, educational lecturer throughout India, Africa, and South America, and appointments by Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton to represent the United States on diplomatic missions in Africa, reflecting the national and international respect he earned as an educator and statesman; and
- WHEREAS,** *Dr. Robinson* received twelve honorary degrees in recognition of his exceptional contributions to education and public service, and throughout his life exemplified integrity, humility, scholarship, and an unwavering belief that education transforms lives and strengthens communities; and
- WHEREAS,** beyond his many professional accomplishments, *Dr. Robinson* was a devoted husband to his late wife, Lulu Harris Robinson, a loving father to his daughter, JesSanne Robinson Johnson, and a mentor, colleague, and friend whose wisdom and kindness enriched the lives of countless individuals;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**
- RESOLVED,** that the North Carolina State Board of Education honors the life and legacy of *Dr. Prezell R. Robinson* with profound appreciation for his twenty-six years of distinguished service as a member and Vice Chairman of the Board and for his enduring contributions to public education in North Carolina; and
- RESOLVED,** that the Board recognizes *Dr. Robinson's* extraordinary leadership in higher education, his steadfast advocacy for educational opportunity, and his service to the nation and the international community as a diplomat, scholar, and champion for educational excellence; and
- RESOLVED,** that the Board extends its deepest sympathy to his daughter, JesSanne Robinson Johnson, and to the family of the late Lulu Harris Robinson, as well as to the Saint Augustine's University community, colleagues, former students, and countless friends whose lives were enriched by his leadership and example; and
- RESOLVED,** that the North Carolina State Board of Education expresses its lasting gratitude for the remarkable life and service of *Dr. Prezell R. Robinson* and directs the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter this resolution into the official minutes of the Board and to present an appropriately signed copy to his family as a permanent expression of the Board's respect and appreciation



Eric C. Davis, Chairman
North Carolina State Board of Education



Maurice "Mo" Green, Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

July 9, 2026