

APPENDIX RR

**CHANCELLOR JAMES H. AMMONS, JR.**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**  
**MAY 13, 2007**

Thank you. Mr. Chair. To members of the board, to my colleagues, to President Bowles, thank you all. Also, congratulations to you, Dr. Mackay, for receiving the O. Max Gardner Award. What an outstanding tribute to your work.

Ladies and Gentleman, I want to thank the board for this resolution and I stand before you this morning with mixed emotions. As you have heard, I am returning to my birth state of Florida. Moreover, I am returning to my alma mater, Florida A&M University. My wife, my son, all of my relatives except one, went to Florida A&M University, so we are indeed returning home. In this business, when your alma mater, and President Bowles you know about this, when your alma mater calls, there is no higher honor. But also, 'I like calling North Carolina home.' Judy and I have made some lifelong friends here in this great state. I have traveled most of the 100 counties recruiting students across this state, and the people have warmly embraced my family and me. I want to thank them for that. Also, you know that many Floridians have second homes in North Carolina and I want all of you to know that the 'Old North State' will be our second home.

Through a search lead by William Smith, then chair of the NCCU Board of Trustees, NCCU gave me my shot at being a chief executive of a university. This experience I will always remember and I want to thank the members of the Board of Trustees for that opportunity. During my time at NCCU we made some great strides, as noted in this resolution. This is a reminder of the work that we have been able to do here. But no man is an island and there were many, many supporters that helped us along the way. I have to begin by honoring a great mentor for me, a man that became my brother - Benjamin S. Ruffin. He was the chairman of the Board of

Governors when I was elected chancellor of North Carolina Central University. He provided great advice and great counsel to me; in fact he always had time for NCCU and for me. So it was a pleasure, and really a privilege, to name a residence hall at NCCU in his honor. This is to honor his legacy, a legacy that will continue through his wife who will join the NCCU Board of Trustees in July.

Next I have to thank all the current and former members of the Board of Governors that have held a special place in your hearts for North Carolina Central University. Some of you are alumni and some are honorary 'Eagles'. But all of you have worked diligently to support our efforts and I am grateful for that support. To President Bowles, and to President Broad who brought my election before the Board of Governors, I want to thank you for the experiences that we have shared together. The entire General Administration staff has known that North Carolina Central University is a vital campus in the UNC system because of our successful collaborations, and the BRITE Center of Excellence is an enduring testament to this relationship.

To the Eagle family, board of trustees, alumni, students, faculty, and staff – what can I say? It has truly been a labor of love, hard work, trials, and triumphs, but always striving to carry the torch that was lit by our founder, Dr. James E. Shepard.

So as Judy and I ride off to the warm, probably HOT, climate of Florida not to retire like most, we go there to infuse that system with the knowledge and the networks that I have gained from my work here in North Carolina and at North Carolina Central University. So I want to thank everyone you here for the distinct honor of having served as the chancellor on North Carolina Central University and for your partnerships and friendships. As I go to Florida, I will let everyone know what we all know – that an EAGLE is no common, ordinary barnyard fowl!

Thank you very much.