



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Livingstone College, located in a historic district of Salisbury, was the site of the first organized black college football game in America; and

WHEREAS, the Livingstone College Blue Bears hosted what is now Johnson C. Smith University of Charlotte on the front lawn of Livingstone College for the inaugural game, played on December 27, 1892; and

WHEREAS, William J. Trent, who later became president of Livingstone College, was a member of the original Blue Bears football team; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Livingstone College and Johnson C. Smith University began the Commemorative Classic, an annual tradition the last game of regular season football, to pay homage to that inaugural game; and

WHEREAS, this year's Commemorative Classic – on Saturday, November 4, 2017, at Livingstone College Alumni Football Stadium – will celebrate the 125th anniversary of black college football; and

WHEREAS, Livingstone College will celebrate this historic milestone throughout the football season, and with a slate of activities leading up to the Commemorative Classic involving students, alumni, community members, and city and county officials; and

WHEREAS, this significant event commands a national spotlight on Livingstone College as the birthplace of black college football; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins Livingstone College in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Black College Football, and recognizes the significance of this historic event;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the September – November football season, 2017, as the “125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.