*Storer College Proclamation – The 155th Anniversary*

***Whereas****, Storer College (originally named Storer Normal School) was established by the Freewill Baptists in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia on October 2nd, 1867; and*

***Whereas****, Storer was the first college in West Virginia for black students, and the only one in the State for the next 25 years; its last graduating class was in 1955; and*

***Whereas****, Storer College, which began with only 19 students and two instructors, ultimately served over 7,000 students during its 88-year history; and*

***Whereas****, Storer provided educational opportunities in a safe environment, and a chance for black Americans and their children to improve the quality of their lives; and*

***Whereas****, Storer College served as a source of pride and included graduates who went on to become teachers, doctors, lawyers, musicians, and civil rights leaders; and*

***Whereas****, Storer’s original Board of Trustees included abolitionist and statesman, Frederick Douglass, and its last Board included scientist, Dr. Madison Briscoe; and*

***Whereas****, Storer hosted the 2nd meeting of the Niagara Movement, the precursor of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and*

***Whereas****, W.E.B. Du Bois, one of the founders of the NAACP, delivered the 83rd Commencement Address on June 5th, 1950; and*

***Whereas****, Storer’s first black president, Dr. Richard McKinney, the first faculty member with a PhD, was appointed in 1944 to lead this proud, historic institution; and*

***Whereas****, the 155th Anniversary provides us with an opportunity to collectively remember and honor all the students and faculty members who walked the hallowed campus of Storer College. May we forever preserve and cherish their legacies and memories, not only on this day, October 2nd, 2022, but henceforth.*

***Now, Therefore****, I, James Green, Jr., Storer College National Alumni Association (SCNAA) President, do hereby declare this special proclamation on behalf of the students, descendants, the SCNAA and all the friends and supporters of Storer College, with congratulations and gratitude for 88 years of excellence in providing a diverse learning experience that fostered integrity and mutual respect.*

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