RESOLUTION

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. is a native of Montgomery and Cullman, Alabama where he was raised with his seven brothers and sisters; and,

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. is a graduate of Jacksonville State University in 1974 with a degree in Political Science; and,

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. was elected to the Public Service Commission in 1978, where he served two terms; and,

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1986 and 1990, and during his tenure, many effective and ground-breaking pieces of legislation were adopted for the state of Alabama; and,

Whereas, from 1993-1995 Jim Folsom, Jr. served as the 50th Governor to represent the state of Alabama; and,

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. is well known for creating Alabama’s most diverse cabinet and staff by appointing many women and African-Americans to key posts statewide as well as directing that the Confederate flag be moved from the Capitol dome to war memorials; and,

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. as Governor of Alabama, directed Alabama’s efforts to attract the first Mercedes-Benz automobile manufacturing plant outside of Germany, which created some 150,000 Alabama jobs; and

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. returned to politics when he was again elected Lieutenant Governor for the state of Alabama in 2006, which makes him the longest-serving Lieutenant Governor in Alabama history with ten years of service with his last term ending on January 17, 2011; and,

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. has been a faithful and supportive member of the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University since 1991 and has shown exemplary service over the last twenty-three years; and,

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. has demonstrated exceptional leadership for the University and under his leadership as Chairman of the Athletic Committee, the University entered Division I and in 2003 was accepted into the Ohio Valley Conference where we currently compete in sixteen Division I sports, having won more than fifty conference championships exceeding all other conference members; and,

Whereas, Jim Folsom, Jr. has been a strong proponent of increasing academic standards for all students; and,

Whereas, Jacksonville State University confers the honorary doctorate in recognition of exceptional public service leading to improved quality of life and enhanced educational opportunities for the people of Alabama.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees confers the Honorary Doctor of Letters on Jim Folsom, Jr. for his accomplishments on behalf of the citizens of Alabama.

This Resolution presented this 23rd day of July, 2012.

William A. Meehan, President
Jacksonville State University

Jim Bennett, Chairman
Board of Trustees