

The University of North Alabama
Student Government Association
Resolution

Written by: President Statom, Secretary Warner
Sponsored By: Legislative Affairs Chairman Shinholster
Resolution 21-04
August 26, 2021

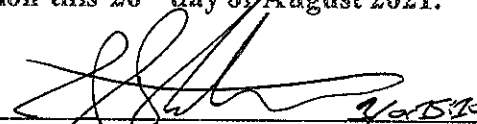
Whereas; The Student Government Association represents and speaks on behalf of the student body; and,
Whereas; The Student Government Association strives to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion among all students of the University of North Alabama for a more safe, welcoming campus; and,
Whereas; in 1963, Wendell W. Gunn, a young Black man, was denied admission to Florence State College (now the University of North Alabama) due to Alabama's segregated education system. Subsequently, Florence State College President E. B. Norton advised Mr. Gunn to seek legal assistance since President Norton saw it to be a critical opportunity for court action to overturn the laws preventing admission to Mr. Gunn and others; and,
Whereas; Mr. Gunn and family then sought Fred D. Gray, a renowned civil rights attorney, to file a lawsuit on his behalf. In the fall of 1963, Mr. Gray successfully secured admission for Mr. Gunn making Mr. Gunn the first student of color at Florence State College indicating a momentous turning point in civil rights history in the state of Alabama and the United States of America; and,
Whereas; along with Mr. Gunn's case, Mr. Gray was President of the National Bar Association, the first African American President of the Alabama State Bar, and one of the first two African American legislators to serve since the Reconstruction era. Mr. Gray is a notable civil rights activist for his representation of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Montgomery Improvement Association, Rosa Parks throughout the Montgomery Bus Boycott, other students seeking admission to other educational institutions, and many other pivotal civil rights cases; and,
Whereas; Former President Barack Obama stated, "The Presidential Medal of Freedom is not just our nation's highest civilian honor—it's a tribute to the idea that all of us, no matter where we come from, have the opportunity to change this country for the better." Fred D. Gray has substantially contributed to change the United States for the better; and,

Therefore; May it be resolved that the University of North Alabama Student Government Association would like to express overwhelming support for Mr. Gray's nomination for a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

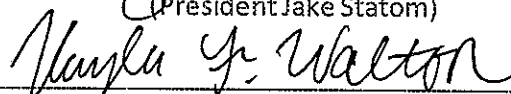
Passed and approved by the Student Government Association this 26th day of August 2021.



Signed: _____


(President Jake Statom)

Signed: _____


(Vice President Kayla Walton)