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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 13, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

Homecoming last week was so much fun. It was great to see so many alumni here on the Bluff. Friday was just as busy as Thursday with all of the incredible events on campus. If you didn't get a chance to stop by the Alumni House for some of Ms. Glinda Rutledge's gumbo, you missed a real treat. We had lots of food, drinks, and music. That Ole Southern Spirit was definitely alive and well. I really felt at home later that night at the Alumni Roundup that featured Zydeco recording artist, Keith Frank. As a kid from Opelousas and Plaisance, I grew up on Zydeco music and thought this was great. Thanks to all of the alumni classes who came out, did a Zydeco two step, and "passed a good time."

We continue to focus on celebrating our alumni classes. I think I had almost as much fun as the class of 1967 during their reunion dinner Thursday night. I announced during my speech that the class was extra special to me because I was born in 1967. Of course, the class laughed and gave me lots of grief. The next day, Patricia Deamer proclaimed me "the baby of the class of 1967." It is a badge of honor that I will wear proudly. The class of 1968 has already begun planning for its 50 year reunion next year; we will also be celebrating the classes of '58, '78, '88, '98 and 2008.

Saturday, the class of 1967 put its money where its mouth is, and officially presented the Alumni Federation with a check for $50,000 during the football game in celebration of its 50-year anniversary. Again, I must extend to them a heartfelt thank you. The money will continue to support scholarships to assist students here at Southern University.

Of course, I cannot say enough great things about all of the *Million Dollar March* captains who made this year's *Million Dollar March Campaign* by the Southern University System Foundation another huge success. The MDM captains presented a $4 Million check to Southern University during the half-time show. To all of our alumni, supporters, and friends, thank you so much for your support of our alma mater, and your assistance in our very important mission to support our alma mater and the students we serve.

While Hurricane Nate caused us to cancel the parade, the homecoming game was great. The threat of bad weather did not slow down our tailgating, and it didn't rain until the end of the 4th quarter. At that point, the Jaguars had sealed their victory, and Homecoming 2017 finished with an exclamation point.

Finally, I want to thank Professor Russell Jones of the Southern University Law Center. Last night, he hosted a reception at his home for several of the male law students. The conversation was deep and we got to know these future lawyers a whole lot better. Professors like Russell Jones and Shawn Vance truly make the Southern University experience a special one. Kudos to our amazing Southern University faculty!

Please enjoy our weekend off from football. Those of you who are in Louisiana, please do not forget to vote this Saturday, as this election is a very important one.

Sincerely,



Preston J. Castille, Jr., Esq.
National President
HBCU Alumni Coalition President