

RESOLUTION HONORING

DAVID P. CLAWSON

- WHEREAS,** upon arriving at Wake Forest in December 2013, Coach David Clawson revitalized the Demon Deacons football program, leading the team to its most successful period in its history, including seven consecutive bowl appearances (2016-2022), an ACC Atlantic Division title in 2021, and back-to-back top-10 national rankings in 2021 and 2022; and
- WHEREAS,** under Coach Clawson’s leadership, the Demon Deacons achieved five of the school’s best annual win totals, earned five postseason victories—more than under any other coach in program history. In 2021, Coach Clawson was named ACC Coach of the Year following a program-best 11-3 record, which earned Coach Clawson ACC Coach of the Year honors; and while achieving these records Coach Clawson conducted a program that always represented the ideals of Wake Forest and lived up to the motto, *Pro Humanitate*; and
- WHEREAS,** Coach Clawson’s players have thrived both on and off the field, with 13 alums on NFL rosters during the 2023 and 2024 seasons, three Jim Tatum Award recipients, and two Brian Piccolo Award winners. The program also set its highest average GPA ever in Fall 2023, with 29 Academic All-ACC honorees, and an overall program ranking above 990 (out of 1000) in the latest Academic Progress Rate, the NCAA’s measure of student-athlete academic retention and eligibility; and
- WHEREAS,** During Coach Clawson’s tenure, Wake Forest football witnessed record-breaking fan engagement and attendance. During the 2024 season, the football program surpassed previous season totals, with 208,156 fans and 23,325 students in attendance, including a school record of 4,701 students attending the game against the University of Mississippi. The significant increase in fan engagement contributed to 11 sellouts over the past five seasons and a 24-13 home record since 2019; and
- WHEREAS,** Coach Clawson’s leadership inspired a \$150 million transformation in facilities, including the McCreary Football Complex, opened in 2023, which added 60,000 square feet of space, and the Sutton Sports Performance Center, opened in 2019, which featured state-of-the-art training facilities, coaches’ offices, and a specialized nutrition center; and
- WHEREAS,** Coach Clawson is a respected national voice in football, serving multiple terms as Chair of the Atlantic Coast Conference Football Coaches and on the Board of Directors of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA), leading through challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and advocating for the advancement of the game; and

WHEREAS, Coach Clawson has also made a lasting impact off the field, leading initiatives such as “Victory Day” with the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Winston-Salem and the annual Ladies Clinic, giving women in the Piedmont Triad community the opportunity to learn about football while engaging with the Wake Forest staff and players; and

WHEREAS, Coach Clawson and his wife Catherine made a \$250,000 gift to establish the David and Catherine Clawson scholarship for undergraduate students from the Piedmont Triad area who are first-generation college students or who otherwise contribute to the diversity of the student body, in support of President Susan R. Wentz’s scholarship initiative.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board of Trustees extends to David and Catherine Clawson its heartfelt gratitude for their dedication to Wake Forest, for Coach Clawson’s exemplary leadership for eleven years at the helm of Wake Forest’s much-loved football program, and for the collective and significant contributions of David and Catherine as distinguished representatives of Wake Forest University.

This resolution was adopted by the Wake Forest University Board of Trustees on February 7, 2025.

Jeanne Whitman Bobbitt ’79, MBA ’87
Chair, Board of Trustees

Susan R. Wentz
President