

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1456**

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Sponsors: Representatives Howard; Hill, McComas, Nye, Redwine, Wright, and Luebke.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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June 4, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILVER  
2 DORNELL "WILLIE" STARGELL, MEMBER OF THE BASEBALL HALL OF  
3 FAME.

4 Whereas, Wilver Dornell "Willie" Stargell was born on March 6, 1940, in  
5 Earlsboro, Oklahoma, and grew up in Oakland, California; and

6 Whereas, Willie Stargell played baseball for Santa Rosa Junior College in  
7 California prior to signing with the Pittsburgh Pirates; and

8 Whereas, Willie Stargell played for the Pirates from 1962 until his retirement  
9 in 1982; and

10 Whereas, during his career, Willie Stargell played 2,360 games and amassed  
11 a long list of impressive statistics, including seven appearances in National League All-  
12 Star games, 475 homeruns, 1,540 runs, and a .282 lifetime batting average; and

13 Whereas, Willie Stargell helped his team win National League pennants and  
14 World Series championships in 1971 and 1979 and six National League East titles  
15 between 1970 and 1979; and

16 Whereas, in 1979, at the age of 39, Willie Stargell received three Most  
17 Valuable Player (MVP) awards: National League MVP for the regular season, which he  
18 shared with Keith Hernandez; National League MVP for the playoffs; and World Series  
19 MVP; and

20 Whereas, Willie Stargell holds the record for the oldest player to win an MVP  
21 award; and

22 Whereas, in 1979, Willie Stargell was named The Sporting News Man of the  
23 Year and the Sports Illustrated Man of the Year, an honor he shared with Terry  
24 Bradshaw; and

25 Whereas, following his retirement as a baseball player, Willie Stargell held  
26 various positions with the Pirates and the Atlanta Braves; and

27 Whereas, in 1988, his first year of eligibility, Willie Stargell was inducted  
28 into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

1           Whereas, Willie Stargell inspired and mentored his teammates and was  
2 nicknamed "Pops" due to his fatherly presence; and

3           Whereas, Willie Stargell was admired and loved by thousands of fans, who  
4 remained loyal to the popular athlete after he retired from baseball; and

5           Whereas, on April 9, 2001, the Pirates unveiled a 12-foot bronze statue of  
6 Willie Stargell at the team's new ballpark, PNC Park; and

7           Whereas, Willie Stargell gave freely to many causes and organizations over  
8 the years; and

9           Whereas, Willie Stargell died on April 9, 2001, in Wilmington, North  
10 Carolina; and

11           Whereas, Willie Stargell is survived by his wife, Margaret Weller-Stargell;  
12 his children: Precious Stargell, Dawn Stargell Moore, Wendy Stargell, Kelli Stargell,  
13 and Wilver Stargell, Jr.; his mother; a sister; and five grandchildren; and

14           Whereas, Willie Stargell was a proud member of the Caesar Bruner Band of  
15 the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; Now, therefore,

16 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

17           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Wilver Dornell  
18 "Willie" Stargell and expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its  
19 citizens for his life and the joy he brought to the game of baseball.

20           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the  
21 family of Wilver Dornell "Willie" Stargell for the loss of a beloved family member.

22           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
23 resolution to the family of Wilver Dornell "Willie" Stargell.

24           **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.