

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1470**

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Sponsors: Representatives Wright, Cunningham, Fitch, Wainwright (Primary Sponsors); Barefoot, Bell, Boyd-McIntyre, M. Crawford, Goodwin, Lucas, Luebke, Oldham, and Womble.

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

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October 30, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO HAVE  
2 SERVED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SINCE 1868.

3 Whereas, the participation of African Americans as elected members of the  
4 North Carolina General Assembly constitutes a long and storied tradition; and

5 Whereas, the role of African American legislators in the lawmaking process  
6 is central to a full understanding of North Carolina history; and

7 Whereas, between 1868 and 1900, at least 111 African Americans served in  
8 the General Assembly and among that number were George H. White of Craven County  
9 and John A. Hyman of Warren County, both of whom, subsequently, were elected to the  
10 United States House of Representatives; Parker Robbins of Bertie County, who served  
11 in the Second United States Colored Cavalry during the Civil War; and Abraham  
12 Galloway of New Hanover County, who assisted the Union War effort and served as a  
13 spokesman for civil rights in the immediate postwar era; and

14 Whereas, public awareness of the contributions of these early pioneers in the  
15 political process, some of whom were born into slavery, is limited, and their roles in  
16 history are frequently obliterated; and

17 Whereas, the modern era of African American representation in the  
18 legislature opened after generations of nonrepresentation, beginning in 1968 with the  
19 election of Henry E. Frye of Guilford County, who subsequently became the first  
20 African American to serve as Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court; and

21 Whereas, Henry M. (Mickey) Michaux, Jr. of Durham County, first elected to  
22 the House of Representatives in 1973, has compiled more years of service in the  
23 General Assembly than any other African American; and

24 Whereas, representation by African American females in the legislature is a  
25 relatively recent phenomenon, beginning with the election of Annie Brown Kennedy of  
26 Forsyth County to the House of Representatives in 1978 and Jeanne Hopkins Lucas of  
27 Durham County to the Senate in 1992; and

1           Whereas, in recent years African American officeholders have risen to  
2 positions of prominence in the General Assembly, among them Daniel T. Blue, Jr. of  
3 Wake County, elected Speaker of the House of Representatives by his colleagues in  
4 1991, and Frank W. Ballance, Jr. of Warren County, elected Deputy President Pro  
5 Tempore of the Senate in 1997; and

6           Whereas, the public good benefits from diversity, and democracy thrives only  
7 when all segments of society are represented; Now, therefore,

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

9           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes all former and present-day  
10 African American members of the North Carolina Legislature and honors their  
11 achievements and contributions toward realizing the goal of a fair and equitable society  
12 for all North Carolinians.

13           **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
14 resolution to the African Americans currently serving in the General Assembly.

15           **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.