

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

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1526**  
**Committee Substitute Favorable 7/23/02**

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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June 5, 2002

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF LISTON  
2 BRYAN RAMSEY, FORMER MEMBER AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES.

4       Whereas, Liston Bryan Ramsey was born on February 26, 1919, in Madison  
5 County, to John Morgan Ramsey and Della Lee Bryan Ramsey; and

6       Whereas, Liston Ramsey attended the Madison County Schools and Mars  
7 Hill College; and

8       Whereas, Liston Ramsey proudly served our country as a sergeant in the  
9 Army Air Corps during World War II, where he saw action in the Pacific Theater; and

10       Whereas, after the war, Liston Ramsey returned to his beloved Madison  
11 County where he greatly contributed to the economic life of his community as a  
12 successful merchant; and

13       Whereas, Liston Ramsey was married to Florence McDevitt and fathered one  
14 child; and

15       Whereas, Liston Ramsey became active in politics in 1948 after winning a  
16 seat on the Town of Marshall's Board of Aldermen; and

17       Whereas, Liston Ramsey served as an alderman for 12 years; and

18       Whereas, Liston Ramsey served as Chair of the Madison County Democratic  
19 Executive Committee from 1958 to 1960 and in 1962; and

20       Whereas, Liston Ramsey was elected to the North Carolina House of  
21 Representatives in 1960; and

22       Whereas, Liston Ramsey served the people of Madison County and North  
23 Carolina for 19 terms in the 1961, 1963, and 1967 through 1999 sessions of the General  
24 Assembly, the longest in State history; and

25       Whereas, Liston Ramsey served as Chair of the Justices of the Peace  
26 Committee in 1967, Local Government Committee in 1969, House Legislative  
27 Redistricting Committee in 1971, Finance Committee in 1973 and 1975, Rules  
28 Committee in 1978 and 1979, State Personnel in 1991, and Financial Institutions in  
29 1993 and 1999; and

1           Whereas, Liston Ramsey also served as cochair of the Legislative Services  
2 Commission, the Legislative Research Commission, and the Joint Legislative  
3 Commission on Governmental Operations; and

4           Whereas, during his tenure in the General Assembly, Liston Ramsey took a  
5 special interest in public education and the environment and sought to enact legislation  
6 to help rural areas, especially those in the western part of the State; and

7           Whereas, Liston Ramsey presided as Speaker of the House of Representatives  
8 for an unprecedented four terms from 1981 through 1988, making him the most  
9 powerful speaker in State history; and

10          Whereas, Liston Ramsey was admired and respected by his colleagues and  
11 other State officials; and

12          Whereas, Liston Ramsey served as Chair of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
13 Democratic Executive Committee in 1972, 1974, 1976, and 1980; and

14          Whereas, Liston Ramsey gave freely of his time to many local organizations  
15 in Madison County, serving as an Elk and a Mason and as a member of the American  
16 Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

17          Whereas, Liston Ramsey received numerous honors and awards, including  
18 the first annual Roy A. Taylor Service Award in 1978, the Distinguished Service Award  
19 for Outstanding Alumni from Mars Hill College in 1979, the North Carolina Public  
20 Service Award in 1985, the Friend of Education Award from the NCAE in 1985, an  
21 honorary doctorate from Mars Hill College in 1988, and a Certificate of Commendation  
22 from the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1989; and

23          Whereas, Liston Ramsey was a great advocate of Western Carolina  
24 University and in 1987, the university named its campus activity center in his honor;  
25 and

26          Whereas, Liston Ramsey died at the age of 82 on September 2, 2001, leaving  
27 to cherish his memory his daughter, Martha Ramsey Banks, and two sisters; and

28          Whereas, Liston Ramsey will be remembered by all who knew him as a man  
29 devoted to family, community, and public service; Now, therefore,  
30 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

31          **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Liston Bryan  
32 Ramsey and expresses the appreciation and gratitude of this State and its citizens for his  
33 life and service to his community and to North Carolina.

34          **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the  
35 family of Liston Bryan Ramsey for the loss of a dearly loved family member.

36          **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
37 resolution to the family of Liston Bryan Ramsey.

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