

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

H

1

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 603

Sponsors: Representatives Fitch and Tolson.

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

March 14, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ESSIE RUTH
2 COOPER RICHARDSON.

3 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson was born on August 26, 1922, to
4 Royal "Buddy" Cooper and Estella Avent Cooper in the Aventon Community of Nash
5 County; and

6 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson attended the Nash County Training
7 School, now Nash Central High School, and furthered her education by attending a
8 number of workshops and seminars; and

9 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson was Manager of Hunter's Café in
10 Rocky Mount and served as Director of the Edgecombe Meadows Boarding Home in
11 Tarboro from 1955 until 1974; and

12 Whereas, an advocate for senior citizens, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson
13 believed that allowing senior citizens to remain independent preserved their dignity and
14 that providing adult day care would cost less than long-term institutionalization; and

15 Whereas, in 1974, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson opened the Tarboro Adult
16 Activity Center, the first adult day care facility established by an African-American
17 female and ran that facility until she was no longer able; and

18 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson served as an advisor to others
19 wanting to open adult day care facilities, and the center she opened served as a model
20 for similar centers across the State; and

21 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson was very active in various
22 organizations and associations, including Household of Ruth No. 302, East Tarboro
23 Citizens League, Edgecombe County United Way, Edgecombe County Mental Health,
24 Four Seasons Club, VOICE, Association for Homes for the Aged, Meals on Wheels,
25 Edgecombe Entrepreneurs Association, and the Nash County Training School Alumni
26 Association; and

27 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson was a member of the North End
28 Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, where she was active in the Willing Works Club No. 8,
29 the Pastor's Aid Club, and the Senior Citizens Club; and

1 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson died on February 15, 2001; and
2 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson is survived by her daughter, Barbara
3 Ann Richardson, and several siblings; and

4 Whereas, Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson will be remembered for her deep
5 commitment to the elderly, her community, and her family; Now, therefore,
6 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

7 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses its deep appreciation for the
8 life and accomplishments of Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson and for the great service she
9 rendered to the elderly citizens of Nash and Edgecombe Counties.

10 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family of
11 Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson for the loss of a beloved mother, sister, and friend.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
13 resolution to the family of Essie Ruth Cooper Richardson.

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