

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 60

Sponsors: Representatives Barefoot; Adams, Allen, Bell, Bonner, Boyd-McIntyre, Cunningham, Easterling, Goodwin, Hall, Lucas, Luebke, Oldham, Underhill, Wainwright, Weiss, Womble, and Yongue.

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

February 7, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF GEORGE
2 HENRY WHITE, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS
4 HISTORIC FAREWELL SPEECH IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

5 Whereas, George Henry White was born on December 18, 1852, in Bladen
6 County, North Carolina, the son of Wiley F. and Mary White; and

7 Whereas, George Henry White attended public schools in North Carolina and
8 received training under D.P. Allen, president of the Witten Normal School in
9 Lumberton; and

10 Whereas, George Henry White graduated from Howard University in 1877;
11 and

12 Whereas, George Henry White maintained a deep interest in education,
13 serving with distinction as principal of the Colored Grade School, the Presbyterian
14 parochial school in New Bern, and the State Normal School (now Fayetteville State
15 University); and

16 Whereas, George Henry White studied law under Judge William J. Clarke
17 and was granted a license to practice law by the State of North Carolina in 1879; and

18 Whereas, George Henry White was deeply interested and involved in the
19 political affairs of North Carolina and the United States of America; and

20 Whereas, George Henry White began his political career in 1881 when he
21 was elected to represent Craven County in the North Carolina House of Representatives;
22 and

23 Whereas, George Henry White was elected to the first of two four-year terms
24 as a State district attorney in 1886; and

25 Whereas, George Henry White was elected to the U.S. House of
26 Representatives by the voters of the Second Congressional District of North Carolina in
27 1896, and he served with great distinction in Congress for two terms; and

1 Whereas, George Henry White delivered his moving farewell address in the
2 U.S. House of Representatives on January 29, 1901, and at that time, he was the last and
3 only African-American then serving in the Congress; and

4 Whereas, George Henry White was the last African-American to represent
5 North Carolina in Congress until the election of the Honorable Eva Clayton and the
6 Honorable Mel Watt many decades later; and

7 Whereas, George Henry White was an eloquent and vocal spokesman for all
8 of the citizens of North Carolina; and

9 Whereas, George Henry White was a valuable and dedicated business leader
10 who founded the first black-managed bank in Philadelphia; and

11 Whereas, George Henry White was a leader of a variety of fraternal and
12 religious organizations: he was a founder and elder of Ebenezer United Presbyterian
13 Church in New Bern; and he served as grand master of both the King Solomon Lodge
14 No. 1 of New Bern and the Colored Masons of North Carolina; and

15 Whereas, George Henry White was a devoted husband and a loving father to
16 his three children; and

17 Whereas, George Henry White died on December 28, 1918; and

18 Whereas, George Henry White will be remembered for his myriad
19 contributions to the State of North Carolina and her citizens of all races; and

20 Whereas, the General Assembly wishes to show its appreciation for the life,
21 accomplishments, and public service of George Henry White; Now, therefore,
22 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

23 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses high esteem and regard for
24 the extraordinary life and accomplished leadership of George Henry White and
25 acknowledges with gratitude the distinguished service he provided to his native State.

26 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.