

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2065\***

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Sponsors: Representative Wray.

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

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July 12, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DR. JAMES  
2 PRESTON GREEN, SR., A PHYSICIAN AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE  
3 NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4 Whereas, James Preston Green was born on May 11, 1925, in Henderson,  
5 North Carolina, to William and Annie Henderson Green; and

6 Whereas, James Preston Green received his early education at Central Graded  
7 School, graduated high school from Henderson Institute in 1944, and earned a bachelors  
8 of science degree from Johnson C. Smith University, graduating cum laude in 1948; and

9 Whereas, from 1948-1951, James Preston Green taught biology at Warren  
10 County Training School in Wise, North Carolina, and also worked for the Rural  
11 Electrification Program where he sold electricity service and home appliances; and

12 Whereas, James Preston Green enrolled at Meharry Medical College in  
13 Nashville, Tennessee, in 1951, and received his doctor of medicine in 1955; and

14 Whereas, Dr. Green completed his internship at Katie Reynolds Hospital in  
15 Winston-Salem, North Carolina, from 1955-1956, and subsequently served on the  
16 medical staff at Lakin State Psychiatric Hospital in West Virginia; and

17 Whereas, Dr. Green was commissioned as a captain in the United States  
18 Army and served for two years as a physician in Medical Services at Landstuhl Second  
19 General Army Hospital in Germany; and

20 Whereas, upon his return to the United States, Dr. Green served on staff for  
21 one year at Good Samaritan Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

22 Whereas, Dr. Green began his long tenure as a dedicated physician in his  
23 hometown of Henderson in 1960; and

24 Whereas, Dr. Green served as chief of staff at Jubilee Hospital until 1966, and  
25 subsequently became a charter member of the staff at Maria Parham Hospital, where he  
26 was chief of staff from 1972-1973, and retained medical privileges until his retirement  
27 in 2003; and

28 Whereas, Dr. Green also opened a private practice on Horner Street in 1960,  
29 and started the Beckford Avenue Medical Center in 1968, where he treated patients  
30 often without pay and always without regard to race, age, or economic status; and

1           Whereas, Dr. Green was instrumental in bringing other dedicated physicians  
2 to the Henderson area, including Dr. James Kenney, who came to work at the Beckford  
3 Avenue Medical Center in 1972 and continues to practice there, and he demonstrated  
4 his dedication to providing medical care to the area's disenfranchised, impoverished,  
5 and elderly citizens by establishing HealthCo., a rural health clinic in Soul City, North  
6 Carolina; co-founding Pine Crest Manor Nursing and Rest Home in 1972; and helping  
7 to organize E.E. Toney Rest Home in Oxford, North Carolina; and

8           Whereas, Dr. Green was the quintessential "country doctor" who, in addition  
9 to his regular practice at the Beckford Avenue Medical Center, made house calls,  
10 delivered hundreds of babies, performed surgeries, and responded to emergency calls,  
11 including one that required him to be lowered into a collapsed tungsten mine to  
12 administer lifesaving medication and care to a trapped worker; and

13           Whereas, Dr. Green's concern for the welfare of others and his commitment  
14 to public service led him to seek elected office; and

15           Whereas, Dr. Green was the first African-American elected to the City  
16 Council of the City of Henderson and served in this capacity as a member for eight  
17 years; served as Democratic Party Chairman for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District for many  
18 years; and was President of the Vance County Voter's League and, in that capacity,  
19 played a significant part in increasing the number of registered African-American voters  
20 in the county from 500 to 5,000 during the League's inaugural voter registration drive;  
21 and

22           Whereas, Dr. Green was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt to serve in  
23 the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1989 to fulfill an unexpired term and  
24 was subsequently elected to serve two terms during which time he used his unique  
25 position as "the only doctor in the House" to advance his passion for quality health care  
26 for every person in the State and his unwavering quest for equality for every human  
27 being; and

28           Whereas, while serving in the House of Representatives, Dr. Green was  
29 Chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee on Aging and was a member of the  
30 Agriculture Subcommittee on Crops and Animal Husbandry; Appropriations  
31 Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety; Commerce Subcommittee on Housing;  
32 Education Subcommittee on Community Colleges; and Legislative and Local  
33 Redistricting; and

34           Whereas, Dr. Green was one of the first legislators to sponsor a bill providing  
35 financial assistance to seniors who could not afford prescription medicines and, for his  
36 effort to address this emerging need in our State, he was commended in 2002 by the  
37 Office of Governor Michael F. Easley at a ceremony at Maria Parham Hospital in  
38 Henderson, North Carolina; and

39           Whereas, Dr. Green served with distinction on numerous boards and  
40 commissions, including as chairman of the Governor's Sickle Cell Council for 10 years;  
41 president and member of the Old North State Medical Society; and as a member of the  
42 Governor's Commission on Fluoridation, the North Carolina Health Care Reform  
43 Commission, the North Carolina Mental Health Association, and the National Medical  
44 Association, which recently honored him for 50 years of membership and service; and

1           Whereas, Dr. Green received many awards for his tireless efforts to serve and  
2 care for the citizens of the City of Henderson and the State of North Carolina, including  
3 the Order of the Long Leaf Pine; a Doctor of Human Letters from North Carolina  
4 Central University in 2001 and Johnson C. Smith University in 2002; status as a  
5 diplomate of the American Academy of Family Practitioners; the Leadership and  
6 Service Award from the Governor's Sickle Cell Council in 1984; the Small  
7 Businessman of the Year Award in 1972 from Governor Robert W. Scott; and  
8 recognition as the "longest practicing physician" by Maria Parham Hospital in  
9 Henderson; and

10           Whereas, in addition to being a skilled physician and conscientious legislator,  
11 Dr. Green was also a visionary and an inventor, who used his experience in treating  
12 alcoholics to create a product known as Vitaquil to help minimize the adverse effects of  
13 drinking; and

14           Whereas, Dr. Green was a member and an elder of Cotton Memorial  
15 Presbyterian Church, a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of  
16 Colored People, a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and a member of Sigma Pi  
17 Phi Fraternity; and

18           Whereas, Dr. Green died on May 19, 2006; and

19           Whereas, Dr. Green was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Carolyn  
20 Marie Smith Green; a loving father to his three children, Attorney James Preston Green,  
21 Jr. (deceased), Isaac Hughes Green, Sr., and Carolyn Annette Green Boone, J.D.; a  
22 doting grandfather to his 10 grandchildren; a caring and dutiful brother to his siblings;  
23 and a loyal friend to many; Now, therefore,

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

25           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life of Dr. James Preston  
26 Green, Sr., a physician and former member of the North Carolina House of  
27 Representatives, for his dedication to providing quality medical care to the citizens of  
28 the City of Henderson and the surrounding communities for over 40 years, and for his  
29 commitment to serving the people of this State.

30           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends sympathy to the family of Dr.  
31 James Preston Green, Sr., for the loss of a beloved family member.

32           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution  
33 to the family of Dr. James Preston Green, Sr.

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