

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR55728-LG-776 (6/4)

Sponsors: Senator Berger of Franklin.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JAMES
2 DAVIS "JIM" SPEED, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, James Davis "Jim" Speed was born on January 30, 1915, in
4 Franklin County to Henry Plummer Speed and Addie Jeffreys Speed; and

5 Whereas, Jim Speed was a graduate of Gold Sand High School and North
6 Carolina State University; and

7 Whereas, Jim Speed married Martha Matthews on November 29, 1947, and
8 they were the parents of three children, Claudia, Tom, and Mark; and

9 Whereas, Jim Speed was a lifelong resident of Franklin County and made a
10 living as a tobacco warehouseman and farmer, producing tobacco and grain and raising
11 cattle on a 600-acre farm that has been in his family since the 1850s; and

12 Whereas, Jim Speed served with honor and distinction in the General
13 Assembly as a member of the House of Representatives from 1961 to 1972 and as a
14 member of the Senate from 1977 to 1996, representing the people of various counties,
15 including Franklin, Warren, Vance, Nash, Wilson, and Johnston; and

16 Whereas, during his tenure in the House of Representatives, Jim Speed served
17 as chair of the Committees on Agriculture and Local Government; and

18 Whereas, as a State Senator, Jim Speed served as chair of several
19 Committees, including Agriculture, Marine Resources, and Wildlife, Natural Resources
20 and Economic Development, and Transportation; and

21 Whereas, Jim Speed served with distinction as a member of the Board of
22 Directors of several local and State organizations, including the Franklin County Farm
23 Bureau, Franklin Memorial Hospital, North Carolina Veterinary Foundation, and North
24 Carolina Farm Bureau; and

25 Whereas, Jim Speed also served on the Franklin County Leadership
26 Committee, Franklin County Board of Health, North Carolina State Board of
27 Agriculture, Agri-Business Council, and North Carolina Forestry Association; and

1 Whereas, Jim Speed received numerous awards and honors, including the
2 Outstanding Service Award by the North Carolina Association of Rescue Squads in
3 1977, the Achievement Award by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce in 1980,
4 and was named the District Tree Farmer of the Year in 1974 and the Conservation
5 Farmer of the Year in 1975; and

6 Whereas, Jim Speed was recognized by the North Carolina Soybean
7 Producers Association and the North Carolina soybean industry for his outstanding
8 contributions in 1989 and received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor James
9 B. Hunt, Jr. in 1981 and the Outstanding Legislator's Award from the North Carolina
10 Division of Aging in 1991; and

11 Whereas, Jim Speed was a Mason and a Shriner and a devoted member of Mt.
12 Zion Baptist Church in Louisburg; and

13 Whereas, Jim Speed died on June 14, 2006, at the age of 91; and

14 Whereas, Jim Speed is survived by his wife, Martha Speed; sons, Tom Speed
15 and Mark Speed; and one grandson, Davis; Now, therefore,

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

17 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly of North Carolina expresses its deep
18 appreciation for the life and accomplishments of James Davis "Jim" Speed and for the
19 service he rendered to his State and his community.

20 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly of North Carolina expresses its deepest
21 sympathy to the family of James Davis "Jim" Speed for the loss of their distinguished
22 family member.

23 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
24 resolution to the family of James Davis "Jim" Speed.

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