

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

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1808\***

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Sponsors: Representative Tucker.

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

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April 19, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM  
2 DALLAS HERRING, FORMER CHAIR OF THE STATE BOARD OF  
3 EDUCATION.

4       Whereas, William Dallas Herring was born on March 5, 1916, in Rose Hill,  
5 North Carolina, to Burke and Lulu Southerland Herring; and

6       Whereas, Dallas Herring graduated from Rose Hill High in 1933 and  
7 Davidson College in 1938, where he studied English and economics; and

8       Whereas, after graduating from college, Dallas Herring worked for Atlantic  
9 Coffin and Casket Co., a family owned business in Rose Hill; and

10       Whereas, in 1939, Dallas Herring was elected Mayor of Rose Hill and, at the  
11 age of 23, became one of the youngest people in the nation to serve as a mayor; and

12       Whereas, Dallas Herring served as Rose Hill's Mayor until 1951 and, after  
13 that time, he was appointed to the Duplin County School Board where he served as a  
14 member and Chair until 1955; and

15       Whereas, in 1954, Governor William B. Umstead appointed Dallas Herring to  
16 the Pearsall Commission, whose mission was to look at the issues confronting the State  
17 as a result of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision on school  
18 desegregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*; and

19       Whereas, in 1955, Dallas Herring was appointed to the State Board of  
20 Education and in 1957 became its Chair, a position he held until his retirement in 1977;  
21 and

22       Whereas, during his 22-year tenure on the State Board of Education, Dallas  
23 Herring served during the administration of six governors, including Luther H. Hodges,  
24 Terry Sanford, Daniel K. Moore, Robert W. Scott, James E. Holshouser, Jr., and James  
25 B. Hunt, Jr.; and

26       Whereas, Dallas Herring oversaw the desegregation and integration of the  
27 State's public schools, helped to improve the curriculum and class size, and fought for  
28 pay increases and teacher aides; and

1           Whereas, many credit Dallas Herring's efforts to provide additional  
2 educational opportunities for high school graduates as the impetus for the State's  
3 community college system; and

4           Whereas, in 1957, Dallas Herring's plan to create a statewide system of  
5 industrial education centers was adopted by the General Assembly, which also  
6 established the State's first community college during that same year; and

7           Whereas, the industrial education centers and community colleges were  
8 merged into a unified community college system in 1963; and

9           Whereas, after retiring from the State Board of Education, Dallas Herring  
10 served as president of the Atlantic Coffin and Casket Co., and continued advising those  
11 who sought his expertise on education matters from his home in Duplin County; and

12           Whereas, Dallas Herring served his community as a trustee of James Sprunt  
13 Community College in Duplin County between 1971 and 1986 and, because of his  
14 devoted service to the college, was honored with a building, lecture series, and a  
15 scholarship named in his honor; and

16           Whereas, Dallas Herring received many other recognitions and honors,  
17 including the North Carolina Award, the highest civilian award in North Carolina, and  
18 the following honorary degrees: L.L.D., Pfeiffer College, 1959; L.L.D., Davidson  
19 College, 1961; Doctor of Humanities, North Carolina State University, 1964; L.L.D.,  
20 University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 1982; and

21           Whereas, Dallas Herring's interests in Duplin County history and genealogy  
22 led him to create a library in his home, which he opened to the public and became the  
23 headquarters of the Duplin County Historical Society Foundation; and

24           Whereas, Dallas Herring died on January 5, 2007, at the age of 90, leaving to  
25 mourn his loss two brothers and a sister; Now, therefore,

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

27           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of William Dallas  
28 Herring and expresses its appreciation for the service he rendered to his community,  
29 Duplin County, and the State of North Carolina.

30           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the  
31 family of William Dallas Herring for the loss of a distinguished family member.

32           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
33 resolution to the family of William Dallas Herring.

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