

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR60293-LG-21 (11/29)**

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Sponsors: Representatives Ross, Weiss, and Blue (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF REVEREND  
2 WILLIAM WALLACE "W.W." FINLATOR, SR., DISTINGUISHED SOUTHERN  
3 BAPTIST MINISTER AND PASTOR EMERITUS OF PULLEN MEMORIAL  
4 BAPTIST CHURCH.

5 Whereas, William Wallace "W.W." Finlator was born on June 19, 1913, in  
6 Louisburg, North Carolina, to John Haywood Finlator and Bain Best Finlator; and

7 Whereas, W.W. Finlator grew up in the City of Raleigh and graduated from  
8 Hugh Morson High School in 1930; and

9 Whereas, W.W. Finlator earned a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest  
10 University in 1934 and a master's degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
11 in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1937; and

12 Whereas, Reverend Finlator served as pastor of churches in Chatham County,  
13 the Town of Weldon, and Elizabeth City prior to becoming senior pastor at Pullen  
14 Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, where he led the congregation from 1956 to 1982;  
15 and

16 Whereas, Reverend Finlator was a lifelong citizen of North Carolina, as were  
17 his parents and grandparents before him, and was a devoted North Carolinian; and

18 Whereas, Reverend Finlator believed people should be treated fairly and  
19 showed his Christian and democratic spirit by treating everybody the same way, while  
20 always trying especially to help the underdog and the disadvantaged; and

21 Whereas, Reverend Finlator actively opposed racism, the Vietnam War, and  
22 the death penalty; and

23 Whereas, Reverend Finlator advocated for women's rights, civil rights, the  
24 rights of workers and labor unions, the separation of church and state, the abolition of  
25 the property tax exemption on church-owned properties, the alleviation of poverty,  
26 among many other causes; and

27 Whereas, over the years, Reverend Finlator was recognized for his many  
28 good deeds, receiving honorary doctorates from Wake Forest University and the

1 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Frank Porter Graham Award, and the  
2 North Carolina Award in Public Service, and he was inducted in the Raleigh Hall of  
3 Fame in 2005; and

4       Whereas, over the years, Reverend Finlator was a friend of generations of  
5 North Carolina legislators and came to the North Carolina General Assembly on  
6 countless occasions to talk to legislators and testify in committee meetings in order to  
7 promote the causes he believed in; and

8       Whereas, Reverend Finlator believed that government can be a force for the  
9 general good; and

10       Whereas, Reverend Finlator died on July 3, 2006, leaving his wife, Mary  
11 Elizabeth Purvis Finlator; his children, W. Wallace Finlator, Jr., Elizabeth F.  
12 McCutchen, and Martha Dell Finlator; eight grandchildren; and countless friends to  
13 mourn his loss; Now, therefore,

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

15       **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of  
16 Reverend William Wallace "W.W." Finlator, Sr. and expresses its gratitude for the  
17 service he rendered to his State and community.

18       **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy to the  
19 family of Reverend William Wallace "W.W." Finlator, Sr. for the loss of a beloved  
20 family member.

21       **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
22 resolution to the family of Reverend William Wallace "W.W." Finlator, Sr.

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