

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1991**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1302**

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Sponsors: Representatives Warner; Beard, DeVane, Hurley, Jeralds, and McAllister.

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Referred to: Rules, Appointments and Calendar.

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June 13, 1991

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF SIPP  
2 BURTON, JR., CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER.

3       Whereas, when in the course of human history, certain individuals are  
4 observed to have significantly and profoundly influenced their community and State for  
5 the better, it is appropriate to commemorate their lives with appreciation and honor; and

6       Whereas, though the qualities of strength and gentleness are commonly  
7 admired and desired, it is a rare individual who abundantly displays both virtues, and  
8 both were outstanding characteristics of Sippio Burton, Jr.; and

9       Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr., son of the late Sippio Burton, Sr. and the late  
10 Sally Hodges Burton, was born on July 10, 1915, in Cumberland County; and

11       Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. spent his early years in Southern Pines and in  
12 South Carolina, where he lived with his foster father, Reverend P.W. Toney; and

13       Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. graduated from the Chester County School  
14 System in South Carolina and attended Brainard Junior College in Chester, South  
15 Carolina; and

16       Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. proudly served his country in the United States  
17 Army from February 28, 1942 until February 10, 1946; and

18       Whereas, after his military service, Sippio Burton, Jr. returned to Cumberland  
19 County, where he established the Burton Barber Shop; and

20       Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. distinguished himself as a civil rights leader; and

21       Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr.'s concern and compassion for those less fortunate  
22 were constantly evident; and

1           Whereas, the rights of all people in general were a major concern of his  
2 efforts; and

3           Whereas, in stature Sippio Burton, Jr. was big, but in life, gentle, kind, caring,  
4 always fighting for the underdog; and

5           Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. served as president of the Fayetteville Chapter of  
6 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, during some of the  
7 most turbulent years of the civil rights movement; and

8           Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. helped to promote better opportunities for  
9 minorities in the areas of employment, education, housing, and health care, and was  
10 involved in the case that eventually lead to greater minority participation in the electoral  
11 process on the local and State levels; and

12           Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. provided leadership in a positive fashion and was  
13 opposed to militancy, yet determined to help others in need; and

14           Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. was admired and respected by all members of his  
15 community; and

16           Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. was an active member of the Spout Springs  
17 Presbyterian Church, where he served as elder and church treasurer; and

18           Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. died on December 21, 1989; and

19           Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. is survived by his wife, Sadie Burton, his son,  
20 Lewis M. Burton, his daughter, Marion Faye Williams, and a host of other relatives; and

21           Whereas, Sippio Burton, Jr. will be remembered as a devoted family man, a  
22 great civil rights leader, and a true humanitarian;

23 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

24           Section 1. The General Assembly expresses its deep appreciation for the life  
25 of Sippio Burton, Jr. and recognizes his contributions and accomplishments in the area  
26 of civil rights.

27           Sec. 2. The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family  
28 and friends of Sippio Burton, Jr. for the loss of this fine North Carolinian.

29           Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
30 to the family of Sippio Burton, Jr.

31           Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.