

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 744

Sponsors: Representatives Coates; McLawhorn, Steen, Wainwright, and Warren.

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

March 17, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF
2 STORYTELLER JACQUELINE CARSON "JACKIE" TORRENCE.

3 Whereas, Jacqueline Carson "Jackie" Torrence was born on February 12,
4 1944, in Chicago, Illinois; and

5 Whereas, Jackie Torrence grew up in Salisbury, North Carolina, and began
6 telling stories to children while working as an assistant at the High Point Library; and

7 Whereas, Jackie Torrence quickly emerged as a gifted storyteller who
8 enthralled audiences with tales of Br'er Rabbit, giants, ghosts, and ordinary people that
9 were filled with vivid cackles, moans, groans, yowls, howls, neighs, and bays; and

10 Whereas, Jackie Torrence was in great demand as a storyteller, traveling to at
11 least 47 states and foreign countries, including Great Britain, New Zealand, and Guam;
12 and

13 Whereas, Jackie Torrence performed at many venues, including the Lincoln
14 Center, the Kennedy Center, Colonial Williamsburg, the National Storytelling Festival,
15 and the International Children's Festival, appeared on CBS Sunday Morning with
16 Charles Kurault, and The David Letterman Show; and was featured in Parade Magazine,
17 the Wall Street Journal, and the New York Times; and

18 Whereas, Jackie Torrence wrote several books, including "Stories from
19 Around the World – African-American Stories", "Jackie Tales and the Art of Telling
20 Them", and "The Importance of Pot Liquor", and recorded some of her stories for
21 commercial release, including "Tradition: a Potpourri of Tales", "Jump Tales", and
22 "Classic Children's Tales"; and

23 Whereas, Jackie Torrence won the National Education Association Award
24 and the 1997 Storytelling World Award, and received honors from the American
25 Library Association and the Parent's Choice Foundation and honorary doctorate degrees
26 from Catawba College and Livingstone College; and

27 Whereas, Jackie Torrence brought a great deal of joy and humor to the lives
28 of countless children and adults with her unique style, melodious voice, and expressive
29 face; and

30 Whereas, Jackie Torrence was known affectionately as "The Story Lady"; and

1 Whereas, Jackie Torrence died on November 30, 2004, leaving to mourn, a
2 daughter, Lori Seals, and three grandsons, Boyce Seals, Bishop Norman, and Benjamin
3 Norman; Now, therefore,

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the extraordinary life and talent
6 of Jacqueline Carson "Jackie" Torrence and expresses its appreciation for the joy she
7 brought to others as a storyteller.

8 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
9 resolution to the family of Jacqueline Carson "Jackie" Torrence for the loss of a beloved
10 family member.

11 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.