

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

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 491**

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Sponsors: Representatives Mobley, Bryant (Primary Sponsors); Adams, Alexander, Allen, Barnhart, Blue, Bordsen, Carney, Coates, Coleman, Cunningham, Dickson, Faison, Fisher, Folwell, Glazier, Harrison, Holliman, Insko, Ed Jones, Justus, Lewis, Lucas, Luebke, Martin, McAllister, McLawhorn, Moore, Parmon, Pierce, Spear, Tarleton, Tolson, Tucker, Underhill, Wainwright, Wilkins, Womble, and Wray.

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

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March 6, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HOWARD J.  
2 HUNTER, JR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. was born in the City of Washington, D.C., on  
4 December 16, 1946, to Howard J. Hunter, Sr. and Madge Watford Hunter; and

5 Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. graduated from C.S. Brown High School in  
6 Winton, North Carolina, in 1964 and earned a bachelor's degree from North Carolina  
7 Central University in 1971; and

8 Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. served as Vice President, Director,  
9 Partner/Owner of Hunter's Funeral Home, Inc., of Ahoskie and Murfreesboro, North  
10 Carolina, and was a member of the North Carolina Funeral Home Association; and

11 Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. began a career in public service in 1978 as a  
12 Hertford County Commissioner and continued to serve on the Hertford County Board of  
13 Commissioners until 1988; and

14 Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. was elected to the North Carolina House of  
15 Representatives in 1989 to represent Hertford, Northampton, Gates, Bertie, and  
16 Perquimans Counties and was reelected nine times; and

17 Whereas, during his tenure in the House of Representatives, Howard J.  
18 Hunter, Jr. served as Chair of the Children, Youth and Families Committee, as  
19 Vice-chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Economic and  
20 Environmental Health Resources, and as a member of many other committees,  
21 including Agriculture, Education, Local Government, Pensions and Retirement, Public  
22 Employees, Transportation, and Welfare Reform and Human Resources; and

23 Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. also served as Chair of the North Carolina  
24 Legislative Black Caucus from 1995 through 1996 and as a member of the Law and  
25 Justice Committee for the National Conference of State Legislators; and

1           Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. fought hard, and often successfully, to create  
2 a renewed State economy that would provide high quality education and health care for  
3 all children and that would include vibrant communities with jobs paying living wages,  
4 safe, affordable, and decent housing, and a well-funded organizational infrastructure to  
5 help produce these outcomes; and

6           Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. was instrumental in launching a shared vision  
7 providing tools, solutions, and a comprehensive plan for creating more productive rural  
8 communities on par with the State's thriving centers of economic prosperity; and

9           Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. worked diligently for the district he  
10 represented and the State of North Carolina and maintained a spirit of approachability  
11 where no one was a stranger; and

12           Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. received many honors and awards for his  
13 public service, including Outstanding Young Men of America; Personalities of the  
14 South Award for Outstanding Services to Community, State, and Nation; Outstanding  
15 Citizen in North Carolina in Human Relations; and Legislator of the Year from the  
16 North Carolina Alliance for the Mentally Ill in 1993; and

17           Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. was an active participant in his community,  
18 serving as President of the Board of Directors of the Hertford County United Way;  
19 Chair of the Hertford County Recreation Commission; Chair of the Choanoke Area  
20 Transit Authority; and as a member of the Hertford County Chapter of the Water Safety  
21 Commission; and

22           Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. was active in many civic and fraternal  
23 organizations, serving as a former scoutmaster, manager of Hobson Reynolds Elks  
24 National Shrine, Inc., President of the Hertford County Chapter of the North Carolina  
25 Central University Alumni Association, life member of the Ahoskie Alumni Chapter of  
26 Kappa Alpha Psi, and as a member of the Elizabeth City State University Chapter of the  
27 Kappa Alpha Psi Guide Right Commission; and

28           Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. was active in the First Baptist Church of  
29 Murfreesboro, where he served as a trustee; and

30           Whereas, Howard J. Hunter, Jr. departed this life on January 7, 2007, leaving  
31 to mourn a son, Howard J. Hunter, III, and a daughter, Chyla Toyce; Now, therefore,  
32 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

33           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Howard J.  
34 Hunter, Jr. and expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for  
35 his life and service to his community and to his State.

36           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the  
37 family of Howard J. Hunter, Jr.

38           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
39 resolution to each child of Howard J. Hunter, Jr.

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