

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

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR70009-LG-22 (11/29)**

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Sponsors: Representatives Ross, Blue, Weiss, Coleman (Primary Sponsors); Martin, T. Harrell, Stam, Dollar, and Avila.

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF BERNARD  
2 ALLEN, SR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY.

4 Whereas, Bernard Allen was born on August 24, 1937, to James Allen, Sr.  
5 and Louise Hoover Allen, and spent his early years in Allendale, South Carolina; and

6 Whereas, Bernard Allen began his college education at Voorhees College in  
7 Denmark, South Carolina, and later used his athletic ability to earn a football  
8 scholarship to St. Augustine's College in Raleigh; and

9 Whereas, Bernard Allen obtained a bachelors degree in secondary education  
10 from St. Augustine's College in 1962, a masters degree in public administration from  
11 North Carolina Central University in 1979, and took additional graduate courses at East  
12 Carolina University; and

13 Whereas, for many years, Bernard Allen served as an educator and a school  
14 administrator in the Vance County public schools; and

15 Whereas, after his retirement from the education field, Bernard Allen became  
16 one of the first African-Americans to register as a lobbyist in the State of North  
17 Carolina; and

18 Whereas, Bernard Allen's background in education and his personal  
19 experience helped him succeed as a lobbyist for the black teachers association, a  
20 position he held until 1971, when the black and white teacher associations merged into  
21 the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE); and

22 Whereas, Bernard Allen served as a lobbyist for NCAE in numerous positions  
23 for 25 years, serving as a field consultant and staff investigator, who represented  
24 teachers and administrators before State and local school boards, and as the  
25 organization's chief legislative lobbyist in North Carolina and Washington, D.C.,  
26 advocated for better salaries and working conditions for more than 50,000 public  
27 educators in North Carolina; and

1           Whereas, Bernard Allen served as a lobbyist for the Office of the Secretary of  
2 State for a number of years, helping the agency advocate its positions and policies  
3 before the General Assembly; and

4           Whereas, Bernard Allen's strong desire to continue his role as a public servant  
5 and his commitment to be an effective member of his community influenced his  
6 decision to enter the race for a seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives in  
7 2002, which he won by an overwhelming margin; and

8           Whereas, Representative Allen served with honor and distinction as a  
9 member of the House of Representatives for two terms during the 2003 and 2005  
10 sessions of the General Assembly; and

11           Whereas, during his tenure in the General Assembly, Representative Allen  
12 made significant contributions as a member of numerous committees, including:  
13 Appropriations, Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services,  
14 Education, Education Subcommittee on Pre-School, Elementary and Secondary  
15 Education, Finance, State Government, State Personnel, Pensions and Retirement, and  
16 the Select Committee on the North Carolina State Employees' Disability Plans; and

17           Whereas, Representative Allen served in various House leadership positions,  
18 including Chair of State Personnel, Vice-Chair of Pensions and Retirement, and  
19 Vice-Chair of the Select Committee on the Lottery, and sponsored legislation creating  
20 the lottery and protecting the health and safety of those who receive drinking water from  
21 private wells; and

22           Whereas, Representative Allen was a man of integrity, who fought for the  
23 poor, the uneducated, and the disenfranchised and was admired for being attentive and  
24 respectful to everyone; and

25           Whereas, Representative Allen was an active participant in civic and  
26 community activities, serving as a member of the Committee on Student Teaching in  
27 North Carolina, the National Education Association's Task Force on the Dismissal of  
28 Black Educators in the South, the Raleigh-Wake Citizen's Association, and the NAACP,  
29 and was a founding member of the Saint Augustine's College Falcon Foundation; and

30           Whereas, Representative Allen served as chair of the advisory committee of  
31 WTVD television station, President of the Sir Walter Jaycees, State Director of the  
32 NAACP Voter Empowerment Program, and chair of North Carolina Central  
33 University's Board of Trustees for two years during his 10-year tenure, and was elected  
34 the national representative of the St. Augustine's College Board of Trustees by the  
35 national alumni membership; and

36           Whereas, Representative Allen was a devoted member of the St. Ambrose  
37 Episcopal Church in Raleigh; and

38           Whereas, Representative Allen died on October 14, 2006, at the age of 69 and  
39 only a few weeks before his unopposed election to a third term in the House of  
40 Representatives; and

41           Whereas, Representative Allen leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Vivian  
42 Sneed Allen, two sons, Bernard Allen II and Andre Allen, and one grandson; Now,  
43 therefore,

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

1           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Bernard Allen,  
2 Sr. and expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for his life  
3 and service to his community and to North Carolina.

4           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the  
5 family and friends of Bernard Allen, Sr. for the loss of a beloved husband, father,  
6 grandfather, and true friend.

7           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
8 resolution to the family of Bernard Allen, Sr.

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