

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

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5**

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Sponsors: Representatives Ross, Blue, Weiss, Coleman (Primary Sponsors); Martin, T. Harrell, Stam, Dollar, Avila, Adams, Alexander, Barnhart, Blust, Brown, Bryant, Cleveland, Dickson, Faison, Fisher, Folwell, Glazier, Goforth, Grady, Gulley, Haire, Harrison, Howard, Insko, Johnson, Justus, Killian, Lewis, Lucas, Luebke, McLawhorn, Mobley, Moore, Neumann, Pate, Rapp, Setzer, Steen, Underhill, Walend, and Wiley.

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

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January 25, 2007

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.,

1 advocated for better salaries and working conditions for more than 50,000 public  
2 educators in North Carolina; and

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

6       Whereas, Bernard Allen's strong desire to continue his role as a public servant  
7 and his commitment to be an effective member of his community influenced his  
8 decision to enter the race for a seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives in  
9 2002, which he won by an overwhelming margin; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           Whereas, Representative Allen leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Vivian  
2 Sneed Allen, two sons, Bernard Allen II and Andre Allen, and one grandson; Now,  
3 therefore,

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

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

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

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

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