

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 205

Sponsors: Senators Graham; Berger of Franklin, Cowell, Dannelly, Dorsett,
Holloman, Lucas, Malone, and Shaw.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 24, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF FREDERICK
2 DOUGLAS ALEXANDER, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY, IN OBSERVANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

4 Whereas, Frederick Douglas "Fred" Alexander was born in the City of
5 Charlotte on February 21, 1910, to Zechariah and Louise Bates McCullough Alexander;
6 and

7 Whereas, Fred Alexander attended the public schools in Charlotte and in
8 1931 graduated from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania; and

9 Whereas, Fred Alexander returned to Charlotte, where he began working in
10 his father's funeral home, and quickly became active in local politics; and

11 Whereas, Fred Alexander grew to be a strong leader in helping to advance the
12 causes of African-Americans in Charlotte by supporting voter registration drives,
13 advocating the appointment of black police officers and mail carriers, requesting that
14 business courses be taught at black high schools, and urging improved health care for
15 blacks; and

16 Whereas, in 1949, Fred Alexander served as executive secretary of the
17 Citizens Committee for Political Action, which sponsored African-American candidates
18 for membership on the city council and the school board; and

19 Whereas, Fred Alexander became the first African-American to serve on the
20 Charlotte Chamber of Commerce in 1962 and the Mecklenburg County Board of Public
21 Welfare in 1963; and

22 Whereas, Fred Alexander was elected to his first term on the Charlotte City
23 Council in 1965, becoming the Council's first African-American member since the
24 1890s, and he served until 1974; and

25 Whereas, during his tenure, Fred Alexander served as Charlotte's first
26 African-American mayor pro tem from 1971 to 1973 and was instrumental in the
27 passage of an antidiscrimination ordinance in 1968, the removal of the fence separating
28 the black Pinewood and the white Elmwood cemeteries in 1969, the construction of a

1 fire station for northwest Charlotte in 1970, and the preservation of the Thompson
2 Orphanage Chapel; and

3 Whereas, Fred Alexander was elected to the General Assembly and served
4 with honor and distinction for three terms as a member of the Senate from 1975 to 1980;
5 and

6 Whereas, while a State senator, Fred Alexander served as vice-chair of the
7 Higher Education Committee and rendered service as a member of such committees as
8 Finance, Constitutional Amendments, and Local Government and Regional Affairs; and

9 Whereas, in 1979, Fred Alexander sponsored legislation designating the
10 second week in February as Black History Week in North Carolina; and

11 Whereas, Fred Alexander also made contributions as president of the Mint
12 Museum of Art, as a trustee of Johnson C. Smith University, and as a member of the
13 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Council on Human Relations and the Southern Regional
14 Council; and

15 Whereas, Fred Alexander served for more than 20 years as an agent and
16 member of the board of directors of the Southern Fidelity Mutual Insurance Company
17 and as manager of Double Oaks Apartments; and

18 Whereas, Fred Alexander was a member of numerous civic and fraternal
19 organizations, including the Masons and Shriners and was an active member of the
20 University Park Baptist Church, where he served as Chair of the Board of Trustees and
21 the Finance Committee, and as a Sunday schoolteacher; and

22 Whereas, Fred Alexander died on April 13, 1980, leaving to mourn his wife,
23 Frances Dugas Alexander, who died in 1986, and a daughter, Theodora; and

24 Whereas, it is especially fitting that Fred Alexander, a man who worked so
25 hard to improve the lives of African-Americans in this State, be commemorated during
26 the observance of Black History Month; Now, therefore,

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

28 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Frederick
29 Douglas Alexander and expresses gratitude and appreciation for his life and devoted
30 service to his community and State.

31 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
32 resolution to the family of Frederick Douglas Alexander.

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