

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

H.R. 1013
Jun 17, 2013
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE RESOLUTION DRHR80377-LG-154 (06/04)

Sponsors: Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

Referred to:

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF VOLLIS SIMPSON,
2 A VISIONARY ARTIST.

3 Whereas, Vollis Simpson was born on January 17, 1919, on a farm in Wilson
4 County to William Oscar Simpson and Emma Watson Simpson; and

5 Whereas, Vollis Simpson served as a staff sergeant in the Army Air Corps during
6 WWII in the South Pacific; and

7 Whereas, Vollis Simpson established Simpson Repair Shop, a machinery repair
8 shop, in Wilson County, and after a number of years, he also established a house-moving
9 business; and

10 Whereas, after retirement, Vollis Simpson began making giant windmills known as
11 "whirligigs" with materials he collected or spare parts left over from his businesses; and

12 Whereas, Vollis Simpson created unique and fanciful whirligigs that measured as
13 wide as 55 feet and as tall as 60 feet with parts that reflected light that he displayed across the
14 family farm in Lucama; and

15 Whereas, although a self-taught artist, Vollis Simpson's creations soon caught the
16 attention of people from all around the world and made the farm a tourist attraction; and

17 Whereas, Vollis Simpson was commissioned to make whirligigs for the 1996
18 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, and the Visionary
19 Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland; and

20 Whereas, Vollis Simpson's whirligigs have also been exhibited at the High Museum
21 of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, and at other locations, including New York, California, Canada, and
22 England; and

23 Whereas, articles featuring Vollis Simpson and details of his artwork appeared in
24 many national magazines and several books; and

25 Whereas, in 2011, Vollis Simpson was presented with the North Carolina Award,
26 the State's highest civilian honor; and

27 Whereas, Phase I of the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park will open in the Fall of 2013
28 in the City of Wilson and will feature a large collection of Simpson's whirligigs that have been
29 fully restored and prepared for display; and

30 Whereas, in recognition of Vollis Simpson's contributions to the State, the House of
31 Representatives unanimously passed legislation earlier this year adopting Simpson's whirligig
32 creations as the official folk art of the State of North Carolina; and

33 Whereas, Vollis Simpson leaves a legacy as an artist and craftsman that will be
34 enjoyed and appreciated by generations to come; and

35 Whereas, Vollis Simpson died on May 31, 2013, at the age of 94; and

36 Whereas, Vollis Simpson was preceded in death by his daughter, Jeanie Simpson;

37 and



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1 Whereas, Vollis Simpson is survived by his wife, Jean Barnes Simpson; a daughter,
2 Carol S. Kyles; sons, Leonard Barnes Simpson and Vollis Michael Simpson; grandchildren,
3 Allison Dunn, Valerie Dunn, Jamison Kyles, and Cassidy Kyles; and a sister, Eleanor Watson;
4 Now, therefore,

5 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

6 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Vollis Simpson
7 and expresses appreciation for his life, his service to our country, and his artistry and
8 craftsmanship.

9 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives extends its deepest sympathy to the
10 family of Vollis Simpson for the loss of a beloved family member.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
12 to the family of Vollis Simpson.

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