

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 681

Sponsors: Senator Woodard (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Calendar 6/21/2017

June 19, 2017

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF RALPH A. HUNT,
2 SR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., was born on April 10, 1932, in Oxford, North
4 Carolina, to Johnnie and Amanda Harris Hunt; and

5 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., attended Granville County public schools and
6 graduated from Mary Potter High School in 1950; and

7 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955
8 and was honorably discharged as a Corporal in 1955; and

9 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics
10 from Johnson C. Smith University in 1956 and later obtained a Master's Degree in Mathematics
11 Education from North Carolina Central University; and

12 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., worked as a mathematician at Wright's Aircraft
13 Company in Newark, New Jersey, before returning to Oxford, where he taught at Mary Potter
14 High School from 1957 until 1964; and

15 Whereas, during his tenure at Mary Potter High School, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., served
16 as chair of the Granville County Citizens League, which was involved with various civil rights
17 issues; and

18 Whereas, after a brief time living in Washington, D.C., Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., moved
19 to Durham, North Carolina, where he taught at Hillside High School from 1965 to 1968; and

20 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., worked at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance
21 Company as a computer programmer from 1968 to 1970 and then served as Executive Director
22 of the Durham Business and Professional Chain from 1970 to 1982; and

23 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., became a private business owner in 1982 and opened
24 a number of convenience stores in Durham and Oxford; and

25 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., also obtained a real estate broker's license and served
26 as an auctioneer; and

27 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., was elected to the Durham City Council to represent
28 Ward 3 in 1975 and was one of only two African-Americans serving at that time; and

29 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., was a member of the Durham City Council until 1985,
30 during which time he served as Mayor Pro Tempore. He was known as a "consensus builder"
31 because he always found a way to persuade people to come together; and

32 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., served with honor and distinction in the General
33 Assembly as a State Senator for four terms between 1985 and 1992, during which time he was
34 a trusted colleague and leader, serving as Chair of the Finance Committee, Majority Whip, and
35 a member of the Joint Legislative Commission on Government Operations; and

36 Whereas, Governor James B. Hunt appointed Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., to the State
37 Utilities Commission for a term from 1993 to 2001; and



1 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., returned to the State Senate in 2004, filling the
2 remainder of former Senator Wib Gulley's term until 2005; and

3 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., served as Chair of the Durham Committee on the
4 Affairs of Black People from 2014 to 2016 and was a tireless advocate for all people
5 irrespective of race, gender, class, or religion; and

6 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., was a member of Sigma Pi Phi and the Durham
7 Graduate Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and was named "Kappa Man of the
8 Year" for 1977-1978; and

9 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., was the recipient of the State's highest honor, the
10 "Order of the Long Leaf Pine"; and

11 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., died on May 16, 2017, at the age of 85; and

12 Whereas, Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., is survived by the love of his life, Rebecca Cooke
13 Hunt; son Ralph Hunt, Jr., and wife, Anita; son, Reginald Hunt and wife, Krista; daughter,
14 Regina Greene and husband Keith; grandchildren, Ralph Hunt, III, Lauren Hunt, Nijel Hunt,
15 Ryan Hunt, Sydney Greene, and Tyler Greene; and his brother, Talmadge Hunt; Now,
16 therefore,

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

18 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Ralph A. Hunt, Sr.,
19 and expresses its appreciation for the service he rendered his community, State, and nation.

20 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of
21 Ralph A. Hunt, Sr., for the loss of a beloved family member.

22 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
23 resolution to the family of Ralph A. Hunt, Sr.

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