

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2065*
Committee Substitute Favorable 7/19/07**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

July 12, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DR. JAMES
2 PRESTON GREEN, SR., A PHYSICIAN AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE
3 NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4 Whereas, James Preston Green was born on May 11, 1925, in Henderson,
5 North Carolina, to William and Annie Henderson Green; and

6 Whereas, James Preston Green received his early education at Central Graded
7 School, graduated high school from Henderson Institute in 1944, and earned a
8 bachelor's of science degree from Johnson C. Smith University, graduating cum laude in
9 1948; and

10 Whereas, from 1948-1951, James Preston Green taught biology at Warren
11 County Training School in Wise, North Carolina, and also worked for the Rural
12 Electrification Program, where he sold electricity service and home appliances; and

13 Whereas, James Preston Green enrolled at Meharry Medical College in
14 Nashville, Tennessee, in 1951, and received his doctor of medicine in 1955; and

15 Whereas, Dr. Green completed his internship at Kate B. Reynolds Hospital in
16 Winston-Salem, North Carolina, from 1955-1956, and subsequently served on the
17 medical staff at Lakin State Psychiatric Hospital in West Virginia; and

18 Whereas, Dr. Green was commissioned as a captain in the United States
19 Army and served for two years as a physician in Medical Services at Landstuhl Second
20 General Army Hospital in Germany; and

21 Whereas, upon his return to the United States, Dr. Green served on staff for
22 one year at Good Samaritan Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

23 Whereas, Dr. Green began his long tenure as a dedicated physician in his
24 hometown of Henderson in 1960; and

25 Whereas, Dr. Green served as chief of staff at Jubilee Hospital until 1966, and
26 subsequently became a charter member of the staff at Maria Parham Hospital, where he
27 was chief of staff from 1972-1973, and retained medical privileges until his retirement
28 in 2003; and

1 Whereas, Dr. Green also opened a private practice on Horner Street in 1960,
2 and started the Beckford Avenue Medical Center in 1968, where he treated patients
3 often without pay and always without regard to race, age, or economic status; and

4 Whereas, Dr. Green was instrumental in bringing other dedicated physicians
5 to the Henderson area, including Dr. James Kenney, who came to work at the Beckford
6 Avenue Medical Center in 1972 and continues to practice there, and he demonstrated
7 his dedication to providing medical care to the area's disenfranchised, impoverished,
8 and elderly citizens by establishing HealthCo., a rural health clinic in Soul City, North
9 Carolina; co-founding Pine Crest Manor Nursing and Rest Home in 1972; and helping
10 to organize E. E. Toney Rest Home in Oxford, North Carolina; and

11 Whereas, Dr. Green was the quintessential "country doctor" who, in addition
12 to his regular practice at the Beckford Avenue Medical Center, made house calls,
13 delivered hundreds of babies, performed surgeries, and responded to emergency calls,
14 including one that required him to be lowered into a collapsed tungsten mine to
15 administer lifesaving medication and care to a trapped worker; and

16 Whereas, Dr. Green's concern for the welfare of others and his commitment
17 to public service led him to seek elected office; and

18 Whereas, Dr. Green was the first African-American elected to the City
19 Council of the City of Henderson and served in this capacity as a member for eight
20 years; served as Democratic Party Chairman for the 2nd Congressional District for many
21 years; and was President of the Vance County Voter's League and, in that capacity,
22 played a significant part in increasing the number of registered African-American voters
23 in the county from 500 to 5,000 during the League's inaugural voter registration drive;
24 and

25 Whereas, Dr. Green was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt to serve in
26 the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1989 to fulfill an unexpired term and
27 was subsequently elected to serve two terms, during which time he used his unique
28 position as "the only doctor in the House" to advance his passion for quality health care
29 for every person in the State and his unwavering quest for equality for every human
30 being; and

31 Whereas, while serving in the House of Representatives, Dr. Green was
32 Chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee on Aging and was a member of the
33 Agriculture Subcommittee on Crops and Animal Husbandry; Appropriations
34 Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety; Commerce Subcommittee on Housing;
35 Education Subcommittee on Community Colleges; and Legislative and Local
36 Redistricting; and

37 Whereas, Dr. Green was one of the first legislators to sponsor a bill providing
38 financial assistance to seniors who could not afford prescription medicines and, for his
39 effort to address this emerging need in our State, he was commended in 2002 by the
40 Office of Governor Michael F. Easley at a ceremony at Maria Parham Hospital in
41 Henderson, North Carolina; and

42 Whereas, Dr. Green served with distinction on numerous boards and
43 commissions, including as chairman of the Governor's Sickle Cell Council for 10 years;
44 president and member of the Old North State Medical Society; and as a member of the

1 Governor's Commission on Fluoridation, the North Carolina Health Care Reform
2 Commission, the North Carolina Mental Health Association, and the National Medical
3 Association, which recently honored him for 50 years of membership and service; and

4 Whereas, Dr. Green received many awards for his tireless efforts to serve and
5 care for the citizens of the City of Henderson and the State of North Carolina, including
6 the Order of the Long Leaf Pine – the highest civilian award made by the Governor; a
7 Doctor of Humane Letters from North Carolina Central University in 2001 and Johnson
8 C. Smith University in 2002; status as a diplomate of the American Academy of Family
9 Practitioners; the Leadership and Service Award from the Governor's Sickle Cell
10 Council in 1984; the Small Businessman of the Year Award in 1972 from Governor
11 Robert W. Scott; and recognition as the "longest practicing physician" by Maria Parham
12 Hospital in Henderson; and

13 Whereas, in addition to being a skilled physician and conscientious legislator,
14 Dr. Green was also a visionary and an inventor, who used his experience in treating
15 alcoholics to create a product known as Vitaquil to help minimize the adverse effects of
16 drinking; and

17 Whereas, Dr. Green was a member and an elder of Cotton Memorial
18 Presbyterian Church, a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of
19 Colored People, a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and a member of Sigma Pi
20 Phi Fraternity; and

21 Whereas, Dr. Green died on May 19, 2006; and

22 Whereas, Dr. Green was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Carolyn
23 Marie Smith Green; a loving father to his three children, Attorney James Preston Green,
24 Jr. (deceased), Isaac Hughes Green, Sr., and Carolyn Annette Green Boone, J.D.; a
25 doting grandfather to his 10 grandchildren; a caring and dutiful brother to his siblings;
26 and a loyal friend to many; Now, therefore,

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

28 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life of Dr. James Preston
29 Green, Sr., a physician and former member of the North Carolina House of
30 Representatives, for his dedication to providing quality medical care to the citizens of
31 the City of Henderson and the surrounding communities for over 40 years, and for his
32 commitment to serving the people of this State.

33 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends sympathy to the family of Dr.
34 James Preston Green, Sr., for the loss of a beloved family member.

35 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution
36 to the family of Dr. James Preston Green, Sr.

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