

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1989**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1138**

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Sponsors: Representative Edwards.

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Referred to: Rules.

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April 7, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING EZEKIAL E. SMITH.

2           Whereas, Ezekial E. Smith (1852-1933) was born in the midst of slavery but  
3 early threw off the bonds of oppression, secured his own education, and entered into a  
4 long life of service to his fellow man; and

5           Whereas, as a churchman and religious leader he served more than 50 years  
6 as pastor, State denominational leader, and inspired preacher, especially as pastor of  
7 First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, E. E. Smith was instrumental in, as he once said,  
8 "increasing the knowledge and love of the Lord" in thousands of the faithful in several  
9 generations of North Carolinians; and

10           Whereas, E.E. Smith served for 50 years as principal and president of the  
11 State Normal School in Fayetteville, setting a record of service unequalled in education  
12 in North Carolina, tirelessly working for the education of generations of North Carolina  
13 schoolteachers, pressing the General Assembly for appropriations, dealing with  
14 Governors and budget officers, at times spending his own resources for land and  
15 buildings, holding forth the vision of an educated people as the best promise of better  
16 tomorrows; and

17           Whereas, through his zeal for better education, Dr. E.E. Smith set an example  
18 and gave heart to others, such as Dr. Alexander Graham, Charles Brantley Aycock, and  
19 Dr. J.W. Seabrook, who took up the cause of the children of North Carolina, both black  
20 and white; and

21           Whereas, E.E. Smith was called at times to State and national service,  
22 demonstrating the breadth of his intellect, wisdom, character, and administrative skill as

1 U.S. minister to Liberia and as lieutenant colonel of the Third North Carolina Volunteer  
2 Regiment during the Spanish-American War; and

3           Whereas, E.E. Smith stood boldly for equality and hope for the black people  
4 of North Carolina in a period when discrimination and bigotry were commonplace,  
5 insisting that black men be allowed to form their own military units, that black  
6 schoolteachers receive equal pay, that black voters should be allowed the full benefits of  
7 the ballot box; and

8           Whereas, notwithstanding his courage and candor as a spokesman for his  
9 people, he also had the respect, the support, and lifelong friendship of North Carolinians  
10 of all groups and all creeds; and

11           Whereas, the monument to Dr. E.E. Smith on the campus of Fayetteville State  
12 University truthfully lists his contributions as: "Educator, Diplomat, Soldier,  
13 Clergyman, and Apostle of Interracial Goodwill"; and

14           Whereas, Dr. E.E. Smith lived in the spirit and the promise of the  
15 Constitution and Bill of Rights of the United States of America;

16 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

17           Section 1. The General Assembly honors the memory and commends the life  
18 and service of Dr. E.E. Smith of Fayetteville as a distinguished and beloved son of  
19 North Carolina.

20           The General Assembly urges that the people of North Carolina take to heart  
21 the qualities of mind, character, and spirit that made Dr. E.E. Smith a hero of his times.

22           The General Assembly offers the heritage of the life of Dr. E.E. Smith as a  
23 bicentennial remembrance in the best tradition of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

24           Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.