

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR45071-LG-148 (04/08)

Sponsors: Representative Womble.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF GEORGE
2 HENRY BLACK, FORMER WINSTON-SALEM RESIDENT AND
3 WELL-KNOWN AFRICAN-AMERICAN BRICKMAKER.

4 Whereas, George Henry Black was born on February 15, 1879, in Randolph
5 County to a former slave and his wife; and

6 Whereas, as a boy, George Black moved to Winston-Salem with his father
7 and brother; and

8 Whereas, George Black made a living hauling bricks and later learned the
9 craft of making bricks by hand; and

10 Whereas, George Black married Martha Jane Hampton in 1897, and they had
11 eight children; and

12 Whereas, in 1910, George Black opened his first brickyard; and

13 Whereas, George Black set high standards for his bricks, which earned him
14 the admiration and respect of the people who chose his products; and

15 Whereas, even when other brickmakers moved to using machines to make
16 bricks, George Black continued to make his bricks by hand, earning him the title, "The
17 Last Brickmaker in America"; and

18 Whereas, in the 1940s, George Black established a brickyard near his home,
19 which he worked until 1980; and

20 Whereas, in 1970, at the age of 91, George Black was commissioned by the
21 United States State Department to travel to Guyana, South America to share his
22 brickmaking expertise with the villagers in that country; and

23 Whereas, in 1971, George Black was interviewed by Charles Kuralt for the
24 "On the Road" series; and

25 Whereas, in 1971, George Black was honored by President Richard M. Nixon
26 during a reception at the White House; and

1 Whereas, George Black's bricks can still be seen on the exterior of numerous
2 houses and buildings in Winston-Salem, the streets of historic Old Salem, and other
3 structures around the world; and

4 Whereas, the George Black House and Brickyard is listed on the National
5 Register of Historic Places; and

6 Whereas, George Black died in 1980 at the age of 101; Now, therefore,
7 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

8 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of George Black
9 and expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for his
10 contributions.

11 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family of
12 George Black.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
14 resolution to the family of George Henry Black.

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