

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 663**

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Sponsors: Representatives Goodwin; Adams, Alexander, Allen, Baddour, Barefoot, Barnhart, Bell, Blue, Blust, Bonner, Boyd-McIntyre, Carpenter, Church, Coates, Cole, Crawford, Creech, Cunningham, Dedmon, Earle, Easterling, Fitch, Fox, Gibson, Hackney, Hall, Harrington, Hensley, Hill, Howard, Insko, Jeffus, Johnson, Lucas, Luebke, McLawhorn, Michaux, Morris, Nesbitt, Oldham, Redwine, Russell, Saunders, Sherrill, Sutton, Tolson, Tucker, Underhill, Wainwright, Walker, Warner, Warren, Weatherly, Weiss, West, Womble, Wright, and Yongue.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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March 19, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE  
2 IMPERIAL FOOD PRODUCTS FIRE.

3           Whereas, on September 3, 1991, a grease fire swept quickly through the  
4 Imperial Food Products plant, a chicken processing plant in Hamlet, North Carolina;  
5 and

6           Whereas, blocked and unmarked exits and locked doors and the absence of  
7 fire alarms and a sprinkler system resulted in the deaths of 26 people and injuries to 56  
8 others; and

9           Whereas, the victims of the Imperial Food Products plant fire were:

10           David Michael Albright  
11           Peggy Jean Anderson  
12           Margaret Teresa Banks  
13           Fred Ernest Barrington  
14           Josephine Barrington  
15           Elizabeth Ann Bellamy  
16           Gail V. Campbell  
17           Rosie Ann Chambers  
18           Josie M. Coulter  
19           John R. Gagnon  
20           Bertha C. Jarrell  
21           Brenda Gail Kelly  
22           Janice Marie Lynch

1 Michael Morrison  
2 Rose Marie Peele  
3 Mary Alice Quick  
4 Cynthia Marie Ratliff  
5 Martha E. Ratliff  
6 Donald Bruce Rich  
7 Minnie Mae Thompson  
8 Cynthia S. Wall  
9 Mary Lillian Wall  
10 Jeffrey Antonio Webb  
11 Rose Lynette Wilkins; and

12 Whereas, Patricia Hatcher, who received serious injuries in the fire, died in  
13 2000; and

14 Whereas, Phillip Ray Dawkins, a Lance Company worker, also died in the  
15 fire; and

16 Whereas, the fire not only caused the loss of life and injury but also resulted  
17 in the closing of the Imperial Food Products plant and the loss of 200 jobs; and

18 Whereas, the fire is the worst industrial disaster in North Carolina history;  
19 and

20 Whereas, stricter workplace safety laws were enacted after the fire to help  
21 prevent this type of tragedy from happening again; Now, therefore,  
22 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

23 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the  
24 families and friends of the victims of the Imperial Food Products plant fire in Hamlet,  
25 North Carolina.

26 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
27 resolution to each of the survivors and the families of the victims of the fire, and the  
28 Mayor of the City of Hamlet.

29 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.