

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 770

Sponsors: Senators Carpenter; Albertson, Allran, Ballance, Ballantine, Basnight, Berger, Bingham, Carrington, Carter, Cunningham, Dalton, Forrester, Foxx, Garrou, Garwood, Gulley, Hagan, Harris, Hartsell, Horton, Hoyle, Lee, Martin of Guilford, Metcalf, Miller, Moore, Plyler, Purcell, Rand, Robinson, Rucho, Shaw of Cumberland, Shaw of Guilford, Soles, Swindell, Thomas, Warren, Webster, Weinstein, and Wellons.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

April 2, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HERMAN
2 HARLEY "BULL" WEST, ONE OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MOST
3 DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS.

4 Whereas, Herman Harley West was born in a log cabin on Taylor's Creek in
5 Cherokee County, North Carolina, on July 30, 1910, to David Bruce West and Nina
6 Ensley West; and

7 Whereas, Herman Harley West left school at a tender age to become his
8 father's "right arm" in the farming and timber business; and

9 Whereas, through hard work and ingeniousness, Herman Harley West
10 founded and became president of Herman H. West and Company, America's oldest and
11 largest wholly owned land clearing company; and

12 Whereas, during his career, Herman Harley West came to be known as "Bull"
13 West; and

14 Whereas, Herman Harley West's company performed many projects,
15 including the monumental task of clearing the huge Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Utah
16 and Wyoming and the Libby Dam Reservoir on the Kooteni River in Montana; and

17 Whereas, Herman Harley West provided many jobs for the people of Western
18 North Carolina at a time when there were few jobs available; and

19 Whereas, Herman Harley West was the first person in Cherokee County to fly
20 his own plane for business purposes from the Murphy-Andrews Airport; and

21 Whereas, Herman Harley West exhibited a keen interest in politics on the
22 local and national levels; and

23 Whereas, Herman Harley West served with honor and distinction in the North
24 Carolina House of Representatives in 1961 and 1963; and

1 Whereas, in 1968, Herman Harley West was elected to the State Senate,
2 becoming the first Republican in 40 years, and the second Republican Senator elected
3 from his district since the Civil War; and

4 Whereas, while in the legislature, Herman Harley West helped secure funding
5 for Tri-County Community College in Murphy, making it the first community college to
6 receive an appropriation for capital improvements; and

7 Whereas, Herman Harley West played an instrumental role in the redistricting
8 of Cherokee County, making it possible for the people of the county to elect members of
9 the school board instead of their being appointed; and

10 Whereas, Herman Harley West served on the Advisory Board of the North
11 Carolina Department of Transportation in 1987, the Board of the North Carolina
12 Department of Transportation in 1975 through 1976, and the State Board of Social
13 Services in 1960; and

14 Whereas, Herman Harley West made possible the establishment of the
15 Cherokee County Historical Museum by loaning the museum his large collection of
16 artifacts and providing his unwavering support of its projects; and

17 Whereas, Herman Harley West was always interested and ready to help in
18 any endeavor that would benefit his mountain people, his State, and his nation; and

19 Whereas, Herman Harley West died on July 12, 1998; and

20 Whereas, Herman Harley West was a true patriot and a devoted husband,
21 loving father and grandfather; and

22 Whereas, Herman Harley West is survived by his wife, Margie Bryson West,
23 five sons, Maurice E. West, Marlin B. West, Wallace A. West, Robert West, and
24 Representative Roger West, 19 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren; Now,
25 therefore,

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

27 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses high regard for the life and
28 service of Herman Harley "Bull" West and mourns the loss of one of North Carolina's
29 beloved and respected citizens.

30 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the
31 family of Herman Harley West for the loss of its family member.

32 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
33 resolution to the family of Herman Harley West.

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