

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 501**

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Sponsors: Representatives Goforth, Fisher, Whilden, Rapp (Primary Sponsors);  
M. Alexander, Coates, Folwell, Glazier, Gulley, Harrison, Insko, Johnson,  
Luebke, Pierce, Tarleton, Wainwright, Weiss, Womble, and Wray.

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

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March 9, 2009

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE DELEGATES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA  
2 SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
3 ORGANIZATION'S FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY.

4 Whereas, the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature was created by the  
5 General Assembly with the passage of Senate Bill 479 in July of 1993 (G.S. 1438-181.55); and

6 Whereas, the primary sponsor of the bill was then Senator, and now Governor,  
7 Beverly Perdue; and

8 Whereas, the Senior Tar Heel Legislature was established (i) to provide information  
9 to senior citizens on the legislative process and matters being considered by the General  
10 Assembly; (ii) to promote citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues before the  
11 General Assembly; and (iii) to assess the legislative needs of older citizens by convening a  
12 forum modeled after the North Carolina General Assembly; and

13 Whereas, the Senior Tar Heel Legislature currently meets three times a year, usually  
14 in Raleigh, to study issues, to hear from key resource persons and State officials, and to  
15 develop from three to five recommendations each year to present to the General Assembly; and

16 Whereas, since its inception, the Senior Tar Heel Legislature has made a total of 70  
17 recommendations to the General Assembly, most of which have received positive action in  
18 some form or fashion; and

19 Whereas, each county is entitled to have one delegate to the Senior Tar Heel  
20 Legislature, and many counties also have an alternate delegate; and

21 Whereas, delegates and alternates to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature must be age 60  
22 or older; and

23 Whereas, over 650 older North Carolinians have served in the Senior Tar Heel  
24 Legislature as delegates or alternates since 1993, including 16 who have served continuously;  
25 and

26 Whereas, seven delegates have served as Speaker of the Senior Tar Heel  
27 Legislature: The Honorable Mary Horne Odom of Scotland County (1994-1995), Doris Dick  
28 of Yadkin County (1995-1997 and 1999-2001), T. Ben Douglas of Columbus County  
29 (1997-1999), Dorothy Crawford of Macon County (2001-2003), Vernon Dull of Davie County  
30 (2003-2005), the Reverend Lamar Moore of Davidson County (2005-2007), and Charles H.  
31 Dickens of Buncombe County (2007-2009); and

32 Whereas, the Senior Tar Heel Legislature will be celebrating its 15th anniversary of  
33 service to older Tar Heels during 2009; and



1           Whereas, observing the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Senior Tar Heel Legislature is a  
2 fitting memorial to the late Jackie Messer, a charter member of the organization, who served as  
3 the Haywood County Delegate for many years and as the Senior Tar Heel Legislature's first  
4 Secretary in 1994 and 1995; and

5           Whereas, prior to her service on the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, Jackie Messer was  
6 an Administrative Assistant for the Town of Waynesville for many years and was a member of  
7 the first Senior Leadership Council of Haywood County; and

8           Whereas, the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature's anniversary is worthy of  
9 recognition and should be appreciated and supported by all North Carolinians; Now, therefore,

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

11           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the delegates of the North Carolina  
12 Senior Tar Heel Legislature, including Jackie Messer, for the service they rendered in making  
13 recommendations resulting in actions that have improved the lives of older Tar Heels.

14           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sincere congratulations and best  
15 wishes to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature on the celebration of its fifteenth anniversary.

16           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
17 resolution to the Speaker of the Senior Tar Heel Legislature and the family of Jackie Messer.

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