

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 53

Sponsors: Representatives Owens, Culpepper (Primary Sponsors); Farmer-Butterfield, Alexander, Luebke, and Pate.

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

February 20, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF VERNON
2 GRANT JAMES, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Vernon Grant James was born on July 11, 1910, in Pasquotank
4 County, to John Calvin James and Fannie Coppersmith James; and

5 Whereas, Vernon Grant James graduated from Weeksville High School in
6 1930 and attended North Carolina State University from 1930 to 1931; and

7 Whereas, Vernon Grant James was a lifelong supporter of the 4-H Club,
8 which he joined at an early age, serving as secretary and treasurer of the State 4-H Club
9 Council in 1930 and as a delegate and international member of the State 4-H Honor
10 Club in 1931; and

11 Whereas, Vernon Grant James was a successful farmer and served as
12 President and Manager of James Brothers, Inc., a produce supply business; and

13 Whereas, Vernon Grant James served the State with distinction as a member
14 of the House of Representatives from 1945 to 1947 and 1973 to 1995 for a total of 13
15 terms; and

16 Whereas, during his service in the General Assembly, Vernon Grant James
17 provided invaluable leadership as chair of the Agriculture Committee for nine terms and
18 also contributed as a member of several other legislative committees and commissions;
19 and

20 Whereas, Vernon Grant James was active in his community, serving as a
21 member of numerous civic and fraternal organizations, including the Board of Directors
22 of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce, Board of Education for Weeksville High
23 School of which he served as chair from 1943 to 1944, Elizabeth City Airport
24 Commission, Masonic Lodge 317, Elizabeth City York Bodies, and Sudan Temple
25 Shriners; and

26 Whereas, Vernon Grant James' knowledge of agriculture enabled him to serve
27 effectively as President of the National Potato Council, Chair of the National Potato
28 Board, a member of the National Potato Steering Committee and the Potato Advisory

1 Committee, and a member of both the State and national Fresh Fruits and Vegetable
2 Growers Associations; and

3 Whereas, Vernon Grant James was active in the Salem Baptist Church and
4 served as a Sunday school teacher; and

5 Whereas, Vernon Grant James was distinguished as the "Tarheel of the
6 Week" in December of 1965 and was the recipient of numerous awards and honors,
7 including the Award for Outstanding Contributions to the North Carolina Soybean
8 Association in 1983, North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Award for Distinguished
9 Service to Agriculture in 1983, Award for Distinguished Service to County Government
10 and North Carolina Citizens from the North Carolina Association of County
11 Commissioners in 1984, 4-H Club Outstanding Alumni Award in 1985, College of the
12 Albemarle 25th Anniversary Award in 1985, North Carolina School Boards Association
13 "True Friend of Public Education" Award in 1986, and the North Carolina Association
14 of County Commissioners Distinguished Service Award in 1987; and

15 Whereas, Vernon Grant James died on October 21, 2002; and

16 Whereas, Vernon Grant James was predeceased in death by his first wife,
17 Selma Harris James, and his two sons, John Thomas James Sr. and Vernon James Jr.;
18 and

19 Whereas, Vernon Grant James is survived by his wife, Thelma James, 12
20 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren; Now, therefore,

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

22 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Vernon Grant
23 James and expresses the appreciation of this State and its citizens for the service he
24 rendered.

25 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
26 family of Vernon Grant James for the loss of a devoted and beloved husband, father,
27 grandfather, and great-grandfather.

28 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
29 resolution to the family of Vernon Grant James.

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