

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17\***

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Sponsors: Senators Dorsett, Hagan; Bingham, Dannelly, Lucas, and Malone.

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Referred to: Calendar 2/01/05.

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January 31, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE  
2 SIT-IN MOVEMENT THAT BEGAN IN THE CITY OF GREENSBORO ON THE  
3 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOVEMENT.

4 Whereas, on February 1, 1960, Ezell Blair, Jr., David Richmond, Joseph  
5 McNeil, and Franklin McCain, freshmen at North Carolina A & T State University, took  
6 a bold stand against rampant segregation in this country by sitting at the all-white lunch  
7 counter in the F.W. Woolworth department store in Greensboro and demanding service,  
8 which was denied; and

9 Whereas, on the following day, these young men returned to the store along  
10 with Billy Smith and Clarence Henderson, and others, only to be denied service again;  
11 and

12 Whereas, these events drew widespread media attention bringing focus to  
13 discriminatory practices against Blacks in the South and spotlighting the courage of  
14 these students; and

15 Whereas, the sit-ins fueled the movement to desegregate public facilities in  
16 this country and led to sleep-ins in segregated motels, kneel-ins in segregated churches,  
17 and swim-ins in segregated pools; and

18 Whereas, by August 1961, more than 70,000 people had participated in  
19 similar demonstrations across the country; and

20 Whereas, the actions of these brave young people were instrumental in the  
21 adoption of anti-discriminatory laws and policies that have led to a more diverse nation;  
22 and

23 Whereas, to acknowledge and honor the sacrifices and actions of the A & T  
24 students and many others, activities have been planned to commemorate the 45<sup>th</sup>  
25 anniversary of the Greensboro sit-ins; Now, therefore,

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

27 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the courageous actions of Ezell  
28 Blair, Jr., David Richmond, Joseph McNeil, and Franklin McCain to end racial  
29 segregation. The General Assembly further honors the memory of David Richmond,  
30 who died in 1990.

1           **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
2 resolution to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, Ezell Blair, Jr. (Jibreel  
3 Khazan), Joseph McNeil, and Franklin McCain, and the family of David Richmond.

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