

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

**SESSION 2007
RATIFIED BILL**

**RESOLUTION 2007-34
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1808**

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM DALLAS HERRING, FORMER CHAIR OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Whereas, William Dallas Herring was born on March 5, 1916, in Rose Hill, North Carolina, to Burke and Lulu Southerland Herring; and

Whereas, Dallas Herring graduated from Rose Hill High in 1933 and Davidson College in 1938, where he studied English and economics; and

Whereas, after graduating from college, Dallas Herring worked for Atlantic Coffin and Casket Co., a family owned business in Rose Hill; and

Whereas, in 1939, Dallas Herring was elected Mayor of Rose Hill and, at the age of 23, became one of the youngest people in the nation to serve as a mayor; and

Whereas, Dallas Herring served as Rose Hill's Mayor until 1951 and, after that time, he was appointed to the Duplin County School Board where he served as a member and Chair until 1955; and

Whereas, in 1954, Governor William B. Umstead appointed Dallas Herring to the Pearsall Commission, whose mission was to look at the issues confronting the State as a result of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision on school desegregation in *Brown v. Board of Education*; and

Whereas, in 1955, Dallas Herring was appointed to the State Board of Education and in 1957 became its Chair, a position he held until his retirement in 1977; and

Whereas, during his 22-year tenure on the State Board of Education, Dallas Herring served during the administration of six governors, including Luther H. Hodges, Terry Sanford, Daniel K. Moore, Robert W. Scott, James E. Holshouser, Jr., and James B. Hunt, Jr.; and

Whereas, Dallas Herring oversaw the desegregation and integration of the State's public schools, helped to improve the curriculum and class size, and fought for pay increases and teacher aides; and

Whereas, many credit Dallas Herring's efforts to provide additional educational opportunities for high school graduates as the impetus for the State's community college system; and

Whereas, in 1957, Dallas Herring's plan to create a statewide system of industrial education centers was adopted by the General Assembly, which also established the State's first community college during that same year; and

Whereas, the industrial education centers and community colleges were merged into a unified community college system in 1963; and

Whereas, after retiring from the State Board of Education, Dallas Herring served as president of the Atlantic Coffin and Casket Co., and continued advising those who sought his expertise on education matters from his home in Duplin County; and

Whereas, Dallas Herring served his community as a trustee of James Sprunt Community College in Duplin County between 1971 and 1986 and, because of his devoted service to the college, was honored with a building, lecture series, and a scholarship named in his honor; and

Whereas, Dallas Herring received many other recognitions and honors, including the North Carolina Award, the highest civilian award in North Carolina, and

the following honorary degrees: L.L.D., Pfeiffer College, 1959; L.L.D., Davidson College, 1961; Doctor of Humanities, North Carolina State University, 1964; L.L.D., University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 1982; and

Whereas, Dallas Herring's interests in Duplin County history and genealogy led him to create a library in his home, which he opened to the public and became the headquarters of the Duplin County Historical Society Foundation; and

Whereas, Dallas Herring died on January 5, 2007, at the age of 90, leaving to mourn his loss two brothers and a sister; Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of William Dallas Herring and expresses its appreciation for the service he rendered to his community, Duplin County, and the State of North Carolina.

SECTION 2. The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of William Dallas Herring for the loss of a distinguished family member.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the family of William Dallas Herring.

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 23rd day of May, 2007.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives