

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1609

Sponsors: Representatives Pate, Wilson (Primary Sponsors); Allred, Brubaker, Capps, Culp, Daughtry, Dockham, Eddins, Grady, Holmes, Howard, Kiser, Luebke, McMahan, Preston, Rayfield, Sherrill, Stam, Starnes, and Walker.

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

May 9, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM
2 "BILL" SETH HIATT, FORMER COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTH
3 CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND FORMER MEMBER
4 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5 Whereas, William "Bill" Seth Hiatt was born in Surry County on February
6 15, 1932, to David Lafayette and Ethel Puckett Hiatt; and

7 Whereas, Bill Hiatt graduated from Flat Rock High School in Surry County
8 in 1949; and

9 Whereas, Bill Hiatt worked his way through Brigham Young University
10 beginning when he was only 16 and graduated in 1953 with a BS Degree in Physical
11 Education; and

12 Whereas, Bill Hiatt served as a Private First Class in the United States Army
13 from 1953 to 1955 where he received a National Defense Service Medal and a Good
14 Conduct Medal; and

15 Whereas, Bill Hiatt was released from active duty in 1955 and transferred to
16 the Army Reserve to complete eight years of service under the Universal Military
17 Training and Service Act; and

18 Whereas, in 1955, Bill Hiatt began working for the Surry County Schools as a
19 teacher and coach of several sports; and

20 Whereas, Bill Hiatt founded Hiatt & Mason Enterprises, a construction
21 company specializing in large-scale commercial projects, including bridges and sewage
22 treatment plants; and

23 Whereas, Bill Hiatt served as Commissioner for the Department of Motor
24 Vehicles (DMV) and Chair of the National DMV Committee from 1985 through 1990;
25 and

1 Whereas, as a result of his outstanding service as Commissioner of DMV,
2 Bill Hiatt received the distinguished award of "ROAD GANG MEMBER" by the North
3 Carolina Department of Transportation; and

4 Whereas, Bill Hiatt served with honor and distinction in the North Carolina
5 House of Representatives for six terms during the 1973, 1981, 1995, 1997, 1999, and
6 2001 Sessions of the General Assembly; and

7 Whereas, during the 12 years he served in the House of Representatives, Bill
8 Hiatt made contributions as a member of numerous committees and commissions,
9 including Appropriations, Business and Labor, Commerce, Education, Election Laws
10 and Campaign Finance Reform, Legislative Redistricting, Local Government, Public
11 Employees, Military, Veterans and Indian Affairs, Public Health, Transportation, Travel
12 and Tourism, and Wildlife; and

13 Whereas, Bill Hiatt was a devoted advocate for education who strived to
14 improve the quality of education in North Carolina and ardently supported increasing
15 the salaries of teachers and State employees; and

16 Whereas, Bill Hiatt is probably best known for introducing a bill on the
17 Handicapped Ramp Law; and

18 Whereas, Bill Hiatt's other political endeavors included running in the
19 Republican primary for the Office of Lieutenant Governor in 1976 and 1984; and

20 Whereas, during his many years of service to the State of North Carolina as a
21 teacher, coach, DMV Commissioner, and legislator, Bill Hiatt received numerous
22 awards and certificates of appreciation but particularly noteworthy was the "Order of
23 the Long Leaf Pine" presented to him by Governor James B. Martin; and

24 Whereas, Bill Hiatt was active in his community and served as an elder in the
25 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, of which he was a lifelong member; and

26 Whereas, Bill Hiatt died on September 7, 2004, at the age of 72; and

27 Whereas, Bill Hiatt is survived by his wife, Rita; daughters, Shelia, Gina,
28 Melody, Chrystal, and Ashley; and 11 grandchildren; Now, therefore,
29 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

30 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of William
31 "Bill" Seth Hiatt and expresses the appreciation of the citizens of this State for the
32 service he rendered.

33 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
34 family of William "Bill" Seth Hiatt for the loss of a beloved family member.

35 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
36 resolution to the family of William "Bill" Seth Hiatt.

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