

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR50134-LM-21B\* (02/08)**

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Sponsors: Representatives Wray and Hunter (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF REVEREND  
2 SHERLEY W. EDWARDS OF POTECASTI, NORTH CAROLINA, A CIVIL  
3 RIGHTS ADVOCATE AND ARDENT SUPPORTER OF EDUCATION.

4 Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards was born on March 13, 1913, in Potecasi,  
5 North Carolina, the eighth child of Thomas and Laura Jane Edwards; and

6 Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards was educated at the Potecasi Graded School  
7 and later the Rich Square Training School before enrolling at the Tuskegee Institute in  
8 Tuskegee, Alabama; and

9 Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards married Margaret Peele in 1941, and this  
10 union produced four children; and

11 Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards, eager to complete the education he began  
12 years earlier, enrolled at Shaw University in 1954 and graduated in 1959 with a degree  
13 in sociology and religion; and

14 Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards faithfully served as pastor of the Second  
15 Baptist Potecasi Church in Potecasi, North Carolina, and New Haven Baptist Church in  
16 Murfreesboro, North Carolina, for 40 years; and

17 Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards also served as pastor of other churches in  
18 northeastern North Carolina, including Sandy Branch Church in Roxobel, Jordan Grove  
19 Baptist Church in Winton, and Jordan Hill Baptist Church in Macon; and

20 Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards, an early advocate for civil rights for  
21 African-Americans, worked tirelessly along with several others, including former House  
22 of Representatives member Reverend C.M. Creecy, to end the split school year for  
23 African-American children in Northampton County, and later served as President of the  
24 Northampton County NAACP; and

25 Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards strongly believed that a quality education was  
26 the path to success and made it part of his life's mission to encourage young people in  
27 his churches and his community to stay in school and maintain good grades; and

1           Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards founded the Northampton County Ministers  
2 Council for Education in 1983 to serve as a community resource for the county's public  
3 schools by helping to identify potential dropouts, offering support to students who were  
4 failing, and promoting student achievement; and

5           Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards served as a member of many civic and  
6 religious organizations, including the Northampton County Parents and Teachers  
7 Association, Farmers and Homemakers Association of Northampton County, the  
8 Northampton County NAACP, the Northampton County Baptist Association, and the  
9 Northampton County Ministers Council; and

10          Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards received many awards and recognitions for his  
11 good works and dedication, including the Northampton County NAACP Award in  
12 1987; the Migrant Mission Ministry Award in 1995; the Richard Allen Ebony  
13 Excellence Award in 1997; the Fayetteville State University Award of Excellence in  
14 1998; and the Dr. Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award in 2004; and

15          Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards died on July 21, 2004; and

16          Whereas, Sherley W. Edwards was a devoted husband to his beloved wife,  
17 Margaret Peele Edwards, who predeceased him on September 6, 1993; a loving father to  
18 his four children, Wendell Edwards, Blanche Edwards, Thomas Edwards, and Elnora  
19 Massey; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; Now, therefore,  
20 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

21           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life of Reverend Sherley W.  
22 Edwards and acknowledges his lifelong service to the citizens of northeastern North  
23 Carolina.

24           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends sympathy to the family of  
25 Reverend Sherley W. Edwards for the loss of a beloved family member.

26           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution  
27 to the family of Reverend Sherley W. Edwards.

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