

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 627

Sponsors: Representatives Adams; B. Allen, Coleman, Harrison, Jeffus, Jones, Luebke, McAllister, Michaux, Parmon, Pierce, Starnes, Wainwright, Weiss, and Wiley.

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

March 15, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR. WILLA B. PLAYER,
2 WHILE OBSERVING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.

3 Whereas, women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made
4 contributions to all facets of American life, including government, business, education,
5 law, science, medicine, and the arts; and

6 Whereas, some notable American women include Madam C. J. Walker
7 (Sarah Breedlove), the first African-American millionaire; Mary Kies, the first woman
8 to receive a patent; Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to
9 Congress; Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to earn a medical degree; Dr. Sally
10 Ride, the first American woman to travel into space; and Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, the first
11 African-American to chair the Board of the United Way of America and the fourth
12 female President of Bennett College for Women; and

13 Whereas, influential women with ties to North Carolina include Mary Jane
14 Patterson, a Raleigh native and the first African-American woman in the country to
15 receive a bachelors degree; Tabitha Ann Holton, the first female to pass the North
16 Carolina State Bar; Dr. Annie Lowerie Alexander, the State's first licensed female
17 doctor; Susie Sharp, the first woman to serve on the North Carolina Supreme Court; Eva
18 Clayton, the first woman and the first African-American woman to represent North
19 Carolina in Congress; Elaine Marshall, the State's first female Secretary of State; and
20 Beverly Perdue, the State's first female Lieutenant Governor; and

21 Whereas, despite the countless contributions women have made and continue
22 to make, their role in history has been consistently inadequate in the teaching and
23 studying of American history; and

24 Whereas, each year since 1987, the month of March has been designated as
25 Women's History Month to honor, recognize, and celebrate the diverse
26 accomplishments of women; and

1 Whereas, during Women's History Month it is important to commemorate the
2 women who have helped expand the opportunities of women, such as Dr. Willa B.
3 Player, an educator and civil rights leader; and

4 Whereas, Willa B. Player was born on August 9, 1909, in Jackson,
5 Mississippi; and

6 Whereas, Willa B. Player earned an undergraduate degree from Ohio
7 Wesleyan University, a masters degree from Oberlin College, and a doctorate degree
8 from Columbia University; and

9 Whereas, Willa B. Player was the first African-American woman to serve as a
10 practice teacher in the public schools of Akron, Ohio, in 1929, as President of the
11 National Association of Schools and Colleges of the Methodist Church in 1962, as
12 Trustee of Ohio Wesleyan University, and as President of Bennett College for Women
13 in Greensboro from 1956 to 1966; and

14 Whereas, Dr. Willa B. Player died on August 27, 2003, knowing that she had
15 made a difference in the lives of countless women across the nation; Now, therefore,
16 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

17 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Dr. Willa B.
18 Player for her outstanding service to Bennett College for Women.

19 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly urges the citizens of this State to
20 participate in ceremonies and events to commemorate and honor women for their
21 invaluable contributions to our State and nation and to learn more about the significant
22 roles women have had in the creation of our history.

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