

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2057

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander; Brubaker, Carney, Cole, Cotham, Cunningham, Earle, Fisher, Glazier, Gulley, Hackney, Howard, Killian, Luebke, Michaux, Rapp, Samuelson, Saunders, Tarleton, and Tillis.

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

June 6, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF SOPHIE
2 ELLEN "JO" GRAHAM FOSTER, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY.

4 Whereas, Sophie Ellen "Jo" Graham was born on May 22, 1915, to the
5 Reverend Joseph Alexander Graham and Queen McDonald Graham in Rowesville,
6 South Carolina; and

7 Whereas, Jo Graham was a graduate of Spring Hill Central High School and
8 Columbia College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1935; and

9 Whereas, Jo Graham married James Benjamin Foster on June 4, 1937; and

10 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster had an outstanding career as an educator,
11 teaching in South Carolina and Maryland before moving to North Carolina; and

12 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster taught at Thomasboro High School in Charlotte,
13 served as an Assistant Principal at West Mecklenburg High School for 24 years, and
14 later worked as an Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of the
15 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools; and

16 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster was a member of several professional
17 organizations, including the National Education Association, Professional Educators of
18 North Carolina, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Educators Association, National Association of
19 Secondary School Principals, Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Sigma, Sigma Tau Delta,
20 and the International Platform Association, and served as President of the North
21 Carolina Association of Educators; and

22 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster served with honor and distinction as a member of
23 the North Carolina House of Representatives for 10 terms between 1973 and 1992; and

24 Whereas, during her tenure in the General Assembly, Jo Graham Foster
25 served as Chair of the Committee on Education, Government Subcommittee on State
26 Government and Properties, and the Economic Expansion Subcommittee on Travel,
27 Tourism and Economic Development and made contributions as a member of the

1 Committees on Appropriations, Aging, Basic Resources, Mental Health, Ethics, and
2 Rules and the Advisory Budget Commission; and

3 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster became the first female to preside over the House
4 of Representatives during a session on May 12, 1989; and

5 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster was a much sought-after public speaker by many
6 civic, religious, and educational groups and appeared before 127 audiences as the main
7 speaker; and

8 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster was active in her community, serving on
9 numerous boards and commissions, including the Education Commission of the States,
10 Johnson C. Smith University's Board of Visitors, Boys Town Board of Visitors,
11 Relatives Advisory Board, Mental Health Board, Total Care Board, National Committee
12 for Citizenship and Social Studies, and the Board of the State and Federal Assembly;
13 and

14 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster's numerous awards and honors include:
15 Outstanding Educator among Elementary School Principals; National Legislator of the
16 Year; National Woman of the Year Award in Business and Politics; Business and
17 Professional Women's State Career Woman of the Year Award; and Columbia College
18 Alumnae Association Career Achievement Award; and

19 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster was active in the Dilworth Methodist Church in
20 Charlotte, serving on the Board of Stewards and as an adult Sunday school teacher and a
21 lay speaker; and

22 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster died on December 1, 2006, at the age of 91; and

23 Whereas, Jo Graham Foster is survived by her daughter, Mary Jo Foster
24 McClure and two grandsons, Jimmy and Jerry McClure; Now, therefore,
25 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

26 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Sophie
27 Ellen "Jo" Graham Foster and expresses the appreciation of this State and its citizens for
28 the service she rendered.

29 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
30 family of Sophie Ellen "Jo" Graham Foster for the loss of a beloved family member.

31 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
32 resolution to the family of Sophie Ellen "Jo" Graham Foster.

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