

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

**H.J.R. 898**  
**Apr 11, 2013**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR80283-LG-40B (02/05)**

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Sponsors: Representatives Blackwell, Wilkins, Starnes, and L. Hall (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WALTER GREENE  
2 CHURCH, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Walter Greene Church was born on June 30, 1927, in Caldwell County to  
4 Anderson Mitchell "A.M." Church and Rosa Dell Triplett Church; and

5 Whereas, Walter Greene Church graduated from Valdese High School, attended  
6 Amherst College from 1945 to 1946, and took courses in banking and finance from the  
7 University of Wisconsin from 1962 to 1964; and

8 Whereas, Walter Greene Church served in the United States Army from 1945 to  
9 1955, earning the rank of sergeant first class; and

10 Whereas, after his military service, Walter Greene Church returned to his hometown  
11 of Valdese, where he married Verta Jean Burns, of Hildebran, North Carolina; and

12 Whereas, Walter Greene Church began a career in banking by working for the  
13 Tallahassee Bank & Trust Company in Florida; and

14 Whereas, after a few years, Walter Greene Church returned to North Carolina,  
15 where he worked for First National Bank and then became CEO of Western Carolina Savings  
16 and Loan; and

17 Whereas, Walter Greene Church served his community as a member of the Board of  
18 Directors of the Valdese General Hospital and of Burke County United Way and as a member  
19 of both the Burke County Industrial Pollution Control Authority and the Burke County Board  
20 of Elections; and

21 Whereas, in 1992, Walter Greene Church was appointed to the House of  
22 Representatives to fill an unexpired term; and

23 Whereas, Walter Greene Church went on to represent the citizens of Burke County  
24 for 16 years and was credited with advocating for Lake James State Park, Broughton Hospital,  
25 the North Carolina School for the Deaf, and the J. Iverson Riddle Center and the Foothills  
26 Higher Education Center; and

27 Whereas, during his tenure in the General Assembly, Representative Church served  
28 as chair of the Financial Institutions Committee, vice-chair of the State Personnel Committee,  
29 and as a member of Appropriations, Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform, Local  
30 Government II, and Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House Committees; and

31 Whereas, in 1985, Walter Greene Church was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf  
32 Pine by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.; and

33 Whereas, Walter Greene Church was a member of the Waldensian Presbyterian  
34 Church in Valdese; and

35 Whereas, Walter Greene Church died on October 1, 2012, at the age of 85; and

36 Whereas, Walter Green Church lost his wife of 53 years, Verta Jean Burns Church,  
37 prior to his death; and



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1           Whereas, Walter Greene Church is survived by his son, Walter Church, Jr.; his  
2 daughter, Lori Church; his brother, Charles Willard Church; and his grandchildren, Lauren  
3 Emily Church and Kristen Susanne Church; Now, therefore,

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

5           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Walter Greene Church  
6 and expresses appreciation for his life and service to his community, State, and nation.

7           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family of Walter  
8 Greene Church for the loss of a beloved family member.

9           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
10 resolution to the family of Walter Greene Church.

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