

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1989**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1113**

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Sponsors: Representative Beard.

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Referred to: Rules.

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April 6, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HUBERT  
2 WILLIS.

3 Whereas, Hubert Willis was born on a farm in Bladen County on May 17,  
4 1908; and

5 Whereas, Hubert Willis was the son of Forney and Carolina Rebecca Parker  
6 Willis; and

7 Whereas, Hubert Willis is a descendent of James Gillespie, who was a  
8 Revolutionary War Hero and member of the Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Eighth Congress  
9 of the United States, and who laid out the city of Fayetteville; and

10 Whereas, Hubert Willis attended a one room, one teacher school for seven  
11 years and was graduated from Bladenboro High School, where he was Valedictorian in  
12 1926; and

13 Whereas, Hubert Willis attended North Carolina State College from 1926 to  
14 1928; and

15 Whereas, Hubert Willis farmed in Bladen County from 1926 until 1934; and

16 Whereas, Hubert Willis trained with the Soil Erosion Service, the forerunner  
17 of the Soil Conservation Service from 1934 to 1935; and

18 Whereas, Hubert Willis reentered North Carolina State College in 1939 and  
19 graduated in 1942 with a B.S. degree in Field Crops and Plant Breeding; and

20 Whereas, Hubert Willis was elected president of the Y.M.C.A. in 1940 and to  
21 Alpha Zeta, a national honor agriculture fraternity, as well as, to the Blue Key and the  
22 Golden Chain, local leadership fraternities; and

1           Whereas, in 1942, Hubert Willis became a soil conservationist in Shelby with  
2 the Soil Conservation Service; and

3           Whereas, Hubert Willis served as a work unit conservationist in Yadkinville,  
4 from 1943 to 1945; in Elkin, from 1945 to 1955; and in Cumberland County with the  
5 Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District from 1955 to 1968; and

6           Whereas, Hubert Willis devoted his life to soil and water conservation, as is  
7 shown by his activities, including his election as Soil Conservation District Supervisor  
8 in Cumberland County in 1972; his three time service as counselor for the annual  
9 workshop of the North Carolina Association of Soil Conservation Districts; as counselor  
10 for the Boy Scouts Conservation Merit Badge; his service to local Future Farmers of  
11 America classes; his teaching conservation and weed identification at summer camp; his  
12 role in organizing the Flea Hill Watershed Project in Cumberland County; and his  
13 conservation news articles; and

14           Whereas, Hubert Willis served as president of the State chapter of the Soil  
15 Conservation Service of America; and

16           Whereas, during his life time, Hubert Willis received numerous awards and  
17 recognitions, including the Certificate of Merit from the United States Department of  
18 Agriculture, in 1963, 1965, and 1967; a Certification of Appreciation from the  
19 Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service in 1967; the Outstanding Service  
20 Award from the Soil Conservation Society of America in 1982; the Distinguished  
21 Service Award for Outstanding Conservation Work from Cumberland County; the  
22 outstanding Leadership and Support of Agriculture Award in Cumberland County,  
23 presented by the Fayetteville Area Chamber of Commerce in 1987; and an award from  
24 the Young Democrats in 1984; and

25           Whereas, Hubert Willis was an active member of his community by his  
26 memberships in the Fayetteville Kiwanis Club, the Gideons, the Cape Fear Chapter of  
27 the National Association of Retired Federal Employees; the Board of Lay activities of  
28 the North Carolina Conference Methodist Church; and the Haymouth Methodist  
29 Church; and

30           Whereas, Hubert Willis married Eutha Neighbors of Forest City in 1943; and

31           Whereas, Hubert Willis leaves to mourn his wife; his daughter, Rebecca  
32 Spade; and one granddaughter, Elizabeth Rebecca Spade;

33 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

34           Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Hubert  
35 Willis for his work in soil and water conservation and expresses its sympathy to his  
36 family and friends and particularly to the citizens of the City of Fayetteville.

37           Sec. 2. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
38 to the family of Hubert Willis.

39           Sec. 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.