

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR70321-LG-160 (05/13)

Sponsors: Representative Womble.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF LESTER EDWARD
2 ERVIN, JR., THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIRE CHIEF FOR THE CITY
3 OF WINSTON-SALEM.

4 Whereas, Lester Edward Ervin, Jr. was a trailblazer in the City of
5 Winston-Salem, serving as the City's first African-American fire chief; and

6 Whereas, Lester Ervin grew up in Winston-Salem, graduating from Atkins
7 High School, and received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from
8 Virginia State University; and

9 Whereas, prior to becoming a firefighter, Lester Ervin worked for an
10 insurance company; and

11 Whereas, in 1951, Lester Ervin was among the first African-Americans hired
12 by the City of Winston-Salem as a firefighter, and he was assigned to Fire Station No. 4,
13 which was located in a predominately African-American area of the City; and

14 Whereas, Lester Ervin was soon recognized by the City for his exemplary
15 performance, and he rose quickly in rank in the fire department; and

16 Whereas, Lester Ervin was promoted to sergeant and later lieutenant in 1955,
17 captain in 1957, assistant chief in 1967, and deputy fire chief in 1978; and

18 Whereas, Lester Ervin became Winston-Salem's first African-American fire
19 chief in 1980 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1989; and

20 Whereas, Lester Ervin served as a role model and influential leader not only
21 to the firefighters in his department but also to those men and women who would join
22 the department in later years; and

23 Whereas, Lester Ervin was involved in his community, serving as a Boy
24 Scout Explorers troupe leader, a charter member of the Greater Winston-Salem Kiwanis
25 Club, and cochair of the United Negro College Fund; and

26 Whereas, Lester Ervin was also active in the East Winston Noon Optimist
27 Club, the Urban League, the United Way, and the First Baptist Church; and

1 Whereas, Lester Ervin proudly served his country as a member of the United
2 States Army; and

3 Whereas, Lester Ervin was a loving husband to his wife, Elizabeth, and a
4 doting father to his children; and

5 Whereas, Lester Ervin died in 1998; Now, therefore,

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Lester
8 Edward Ervin, Jr. and expresses its appreciation for his exemplary work as a firefighter
9 and his commitment and dedication to saving lives and protecting property in the City
10 of Winston-Salem.

11 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly commends Lester Edward Ervin, Jr. for
12 his bravery and courage in becoming Winton-Salem's first African-American fire chief.

13 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family of
14 Lester Edward Ervin, Jr. for the loss of its beloved family member.

15 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
16 resolution to the family of Lester Edward Ervin, Jr.

17 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.