

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION DRHR50326-LG-123 (04/20)

Sponsors: Representative Mobley.

Referred to:

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIVES AND MEMORIES OF WILLIAM
2 DAVID NEWSOME AND PARKER D. ROBBINS, FORMER MEMBERS OF THE
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4 Whereas, before the Civil War, many free persons of color living in North Carolina
5 were exceptional leaders in their communities, including William David Newsome and Parker
6 D. Robbins; and

7 Whereas, William David Newsome, a native of Hertford County, made a living as a
8 teacher on Roanoke Island; and

9 Whereas, after the Civil War, William David Newsome returned to Hertford County
10 where he became the first teacher of the Pleasant Plains School; and

11 Whereas, William David Newsome went on to serve in the General Assembly as a
12 member of the House of Representatives from 1868 to 1872, representing the citizens of
13 Hertford County; and

14 Whereas, Parker D. Robbins owned a 102-acre farm in Bertie County and made a
15 living as a carpenter and mechanic; and

16 Whereas, in 1863, Parker D. Robbins joined the Second United States Colored
17 Cavalry and achieved the rank of sergeant major prior to his honorable discharge in 1866; and

18 Whereas, in 1868, Parker D. Robbins became one of 15 African-Americans elected
19 to North Carolina's constitutional convention, representing Bertie County; and

20 Whereas, a year later, Parker D. Robbins served in the General Assembly as a
21 member of the House of Representatives for a term from 1869 to 1870, representing the
22 citizens of Bertie County; and

23 Whereas, between 1870 and 1877, Parker D. Robbins served as the postmaster for
24 the Town of Harrellsville in Hertford County and worked as a farmer, during which time he
25 obtained two patents for inventions associated with agriculture; and

26 Whereas, in 1877, Parker D. Robbins moved to Duplin County where he became the
27 owner of a sawmill and cotton gin, constructed homes in the Magnolia area, and built and
28 operated a steamboat known as the Saint Peter on the Cape Fear River; Now, therefore,

29 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

30 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the lives of William David
31 Newsome and Parker D. Robbins for being outstanding leaders in their communities and for
32 rendering distinguished service to the State of North Carolina as members of the General
33 Assembly.

34 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.

