

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

**H.J.R. 514**  
**Apr 2, 2013**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30276-LG-69 (03/05)

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Sponsors: Representative Cunningham.

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM "PETE"  
2 CUNNINGHAM, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, William "Pete" Cunningham was born in Union County on November 7,  
4 1929, to John Wallace and Jonsie Patterson; and

5 Whereas, Pete Cunningham graduated from Winchester Avenue School in 1945 and  
6 earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business law from Johnson C. Smith University in 1956;  
7 and

8 Whereas, Pete Cunningham served in two branches of the United States military,  
9 joining the Army as a teenager where he served as a member of the Third Battalion 505th  
10 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division and enlisting in the Navy in 1966  
11 where he served as a Radioman 1st Class aboard the USS Barracuda stationed in Charleston,  
12 South Carolina; and

13 Whereas, upon his retirement from the military in 1986, Pete Cunningham moved to  
14 Charlotte where he took on a number of business ventures including serving as president and  
15 co-owner of a personnel agency known as Cunningham and Hatchett Associates; sole  
16 proprietor of the Historic Excelsior Club from 1988 to 2006, and as a real estate investor; and

17 Whereas, Pete Cunningham served his community in many worthwhile capacities  
18 and was active in many organizations including the Charlotte Business League, Black Political  
19 Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the NAACP of which he was  
20 a life member; and

21 Whereas, Pete Cunningham was concerned about the welfare of children in his  
22 community taking an active role with the Anita Stroud Foundation which provides educational,  
23 motivational, and enrichment programs to children in the Mecklenburg County area and  
24 founding the Excelsior Club Humanity Organization (E.C.H.O.) which was established to assist  
25 the Anita Stroud Foundation's school tutorial program; and

26 Whereas, Pete Cunningham served with honor and distinction in the General  
27 Assembly as a member of the House of Representatives from 1987 through 2007 during which  
28 time he was the longest serving member of the Mecklenburg-Charlotte delegation; and

29 Whereas, during his tenure in the General Assembly, Pete Cunningham served as  
30 Minority Whip from 1995 to 1996, as an ex officio member of most of the standing and  
31 permanent committees from 2001 through 2007, and as a member of the Legislative Black  
32 Caucus; and

33 Whereas, Pete Cunningham aided Governors James B. Hunt, Jr. and Michael F.  
34 Easley with increasing diversity in the State's hiring practices; and

35 Whereas, Pete Cunningham earned many awards and recognitions during his  
36 lifetime including the Silver Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Certificate of  
37 Appreciation Award from the Anita Stroud Foundation, Certificate of Appreciation from Feed



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1 the Children, the Leadership and Public Service Award from North Carolina A & T State  
2 University, the Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina Council on Sickle Cell  
3 Syndrome, the Benevolent Advocate of Healthcare Award from the Old North State Medical  
4 Society, and the Pinnacle Award from the Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg;  
5 and

6           Whereas, Pete Cunningham was a member of the First Baptist Church-West of  
7 Charlotte where he served on the Board of Directors; and

8           Whereas, Pete Cunningham died on December 21, 2010, at the age of 81; and

9           Whereas, prior to his death, Pete Cunningham lost two of his sons, Gary  
10 Cunningham and Kenneth Cunningham; and

11           Whereas, Pete Cunningham is survived by his wife, Carla Rorie Cunningham; his  
12 children, William "Ronnie" Cunningham, Peter Cunningham, and Khristina Cunningham; two  
13 step-children, KaMesha Rorie and Kyle Rorie; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren;  
14 Now, therefore,

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

16           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of William "Pete"  
17 Cunningham and expresses the appreciation of the citizens of this State for the service he  
18 rendered his community, State, and nation.

19           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family of William  
20 "Pete" Cunningham for the loss of a beloved family member.

21           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
22 resolution to the family of William "Pete" Cunningham.

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