

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2015**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 837**

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Sponsors: Representatives C. Graham and Pierce (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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April 15, 2015

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF JULIAN T. PIERCE IN  
2 RECOGNITION OF HIS EXEMPLARY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF EQUAL JUSTICE.

3 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce was born on January 2, 1946, one of 11 children of a  
4 Lumbee Indian farming family, in Hoke County; and

5 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce received a full academic scholarship at age 16 to attend  
6 Pembroke University, where he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1966; and

7 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce worked as a chemist for the Norfolk Naval Shipyard for  
8 eight years prior to pursuing a career in law; and

9 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce earned a juris doctorate degree from North Carolina  
10 Central University School of Law in 1976, and a master of laws degree in tax from Georgetown  
11 University School of Law in 1978; and

12 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce worked in the Office of the General Counsel of the  
13 Securities and Exchange Commission for two years prior to becoming the first Executive  
14 Director of Lumbee River Legal Services; and

15 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce spent his entire legal career advocating, in and out of the  
16 courts, for equal justice for all; and

17 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce was committed to preserving and promoting the cultural  
18 heritage of his people, and spent many years working to win federal recognition for the Lumbee  
19 tribe; and

20 Whereas, in 1988, Julian T. Pierce sought to become the first Lumbee member of  
21 the judiciary, but his campaign was halted when he was murdered at the age of 42; and

22 Whereas, the results of the election showed Julian T. Pierce received 10,787 votes to  
23 his opponent's 8,231 votes; and

24 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce, in his brief life, demonstrated that the law could be used  
25 to positively impact the lives of poor and disenfranchised people in his community and this  
26 State; and

27 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce remains a role model to many in the Lumbee community,  
28 as well as the greater Pembroke area, because of the struggles he overcame to become a lawyer,  
29 the battles he fought on behalf of his people and his clients, and the integrity, perseverance, and  
30 motivation he showed even in the face of personal danger; and

31 Whereas, Julian T. Pierce was so beloved by his family, friends, community, and  
32 colleagues that even 27 years after his death, efforts are made each year to commemorate his  
33 life by funding scholarships, awards, and projects in his name, and by efforts to continue  
34 educating others about his efforts to ensure equality for all; Now, therefore,

35 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:



1           **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the life and memory of Julian  
2 T. Pierce for his efforts to ensure that every citizen received equal justice under the law, and his  
3 dedication to preserving and honoring the history and culture of the Lumbee Indians.

4           **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
5 to the family of Julian T. Pierce.

6           **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.