**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 4471**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

House Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. Dillard, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, B.J. Cox, B.L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J.E. Johnson, J.L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Sessions, G.M. Smith, M.M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow

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Introduced in the House on May 1, 2025

Adopted by the House on May 1, 2025

Summary: James Wilbur Walker

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 5/1/2025 House Introduced and adopted

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[05/01/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4471_20250501.docx)

A house RESOLUTION

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER J. WILBUR WALKER, PRINCIPAL OF WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL IN GREENVILLE, FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR.

Whereas, although the establishment was in operation for only nine years, Washington Elementary and High School in Greenville flourished under the leadership of James Wilbur Walker as principal. A most charismatic and beloved leader, Mr. Walker supported students and encouraged them to become successful by earning an education. His actions demonstrated sincere caring, not only for students’ achievements in the classroom but also for their social, mental, and physical well-being; and

Whereas, early in his career as an educator, J. Wilbur Walker organized the first Parent Teacher Association in Greenville County (1939) and the first statewide Elementary School Principals’ Association in South Carolina (1950). Local citizens also credited him with helping to defuse racial tensions during the desegregation of Greenville County Schools; and

Whereas, prior to taking up his duties as principal of Washington Elementary and High School, Mr. Walker had served as principal of Gower Elementary, Oscar Elementary, and Union Elementary. At Washington Elementary and High School, he served as principal from the school’s opening in the fall of 1961 until its closing in February 1970; and

Whereas, today, students still speak of Mr. Walker as a person who saved students and fed the hungry. Charles Gardner, Class of 1964, offers this high praise: “Mr. Walker made sure that every student at Washington was fed. He created an environment to make sure that no one dropped out of school.” Students further remember Mr. Walker as an effective and loving administrator who encouraged every student to become a good role model; and

Whereas, on June 7, 2025, Washington alumni will celebrate J. Wilbur Walker’s contributions and honor him with a statue unveiling. They also will dedicate the community room of the new Greenlink Transportation facility in his honor; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House takes great pleasure in saluting the achievements of J. Wilbur Walker, and the members offer grateful thanks for the legacy of this outstanding educator and son of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and remember J. Wilbur Walker, principal of Washington Elementary and High School in Greenville, for his distinguished service as an educator.

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