

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR45187-LG-29 (02/10)

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Sponsors: Senators Gunn, Barringer, and Foushee (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DEAN EDWARDS  
2 SMITH, LEGENDARY MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
3 NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL.

4 Whereas, Dean Edwards Smith was born on February 28, 1931, in Emporia, Kansas,  
5 to Alfred and Vesta Smith, both public school teachers; and

6 Whereas, Dean Smith graduated from Topeka High School in 1949, and attended  
7 the University of Kansas on an academic scholarship, during which time he was a student  
8 athlete, playing varsity basketball and baseball and freshman football, and was a member of the  
9 Jayhawk basketball team that won the NCAA title in 1952, and finished second in 1953; and

10 Whereas, after graduating college in 1953, Dean Smith remained at the University  
11 of Kansas, where he served as an assistant basketball coach to Phog Allen and Dick Harp; and

12 Whereas, in 1954, Dean Smith joined the U.S. Air Force, where he played and  
13 coached basketball and served as an assistant basketball coach to Bob Spear, and was the head  
14 coach of the Air Force Academy's baseball and golf teams; and

15 Whereas, in 1958, Dean Smith became an assistant coach to Frank McGuire at the  
16 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) and, in 1961, at the age of 30, became the  
17 head coach when Coach McGuire resigned to become head coach of the NBA's Philadelphia  
18 Warriors; and

19 Whereas, in 1966, Coach Smith helped integrate UNC athletics by recruiting  
20 Charles Scott, the first African-American scholarship player at the university, and one of the  
21 first black athletes to sign at a major college in the South; and

22 Whereas, with a fierce winning spirit and talented players, Coach Smith guided the  
23 Tar Heels in ACC play to a record of 364-136, and won 13 ACC Tournament titles, and  
24 finished at least third in the ACC regular-season standings for 33 successive seasons, including  
25 17 first place titles, 11 second place finishes, and five third place finishes; and

26 Whereas, the Tar Heels under Coach Smith's skilled hand, won at least 20 games in  
27 each of his final 27 seasons, including 30 of his last 31, a record matched by no other coach;  
28 and

29 Whereas, Coach Smith led his teams to 27 NCAA appearances, of which 23 were  
30 consecutive; Sweet 16 appearances in each season from 1981 to 1993; 11 Final Four  
31 appearances; NCAA championships in 1982 and 1993; and a NIT championship in 1971; and

32 Whereas, Coach Smith was instrumental in guiding the United States basketball  
33 team to a gold medal at the 1976 Olympic Games; and

34 Whereas, on March 15, 1997, Coach Smith became the "all-time winningest coach"  
35 in the history of NCAA Division I basketball by passing Adolph Rupp's record of 876 wins;  
36 and



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1           Whereas, Dean Smith retired from coaching on October 9, 1997, with a record of  
2 879-254 and the distinction of having won more games than any other Division I men's  
3 basketball college coach in history, a record that held until 2007; and

4           Whereas, at UNC, Coach Smith established a tradition of excellence during his 36  
5 years as head coach, building an outstanding men's basketball program made up of young men  
6 who succeeded not only on the basketball court but also in the classroom, where they achieved  
7 a graduation rate of 95%; and

8           Whereas, Coach Smith created or perfected the run and jump and scramble  
9 defenses, the team huddle before a free throw, the clenched fist to signal a needed rest from the  
10 game, the acknowledgment of an assist on the court by pointing a finger at the teammate, and  
11 the "Four Corners" offense that proved so effective the shot clock was instituted by the NCAA  
12 in 1985; and

13           Whereas, many of Coach Smith's players went on to become professional basketball  
14 players, basketball coaches, entrepreneurs, professionals, and other leaders, many of whom still  
15 contribute to their communities throughout the world; and

16           Whereas, Coach Smith received numerous awards and honors, as he was named the  
17 ACC coach of the year eight times, national coach of the year four times, and the Sportsman of  
18 the Year by Sports Illustrated, and received the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage at the ESPY  
19 Awards and the Naismith Good Sportsmanship Award; and

20           Whereas, Coach Smith was the first recipient of the Mentor Award for Lifetime  
21 Achievement given by the University of North Carolina Committee on Teaching Awards for "a  
22 broader range of teaching beyond the classroom," and was the recipient of the Order of the  
23 Longleaf Pine in 1988 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award  
24 granted by the United States government, in 2013; and

25           Whereas, Coach Smith was recognized by SportsCentury, an award winning  
26 program on ESPN, as one of the top seven coaches of the 20th century, joining coaching  
27 legends Red Auerbach, Bear Bryant, George Halas, Vince Lombardi, John McGraw, and John  
28 Wooden; and

29           Whereas, Coach Smith was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in  
30 1981, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983, National Collegiate Basketball Hall  
31 of Fame in 2006, and FIBA Hall of Fame in 2007; and

32           Whereas, Coach Smith was a very humble man who did not seek fame or fortune or  
33 recognition for any of the things he did for others; and

34           Whereas, Coach Smith was a man of great character who believed in equality for  
35 every citizen, and that was demonstrated over and over in his life's work, including when he, in  
36 the late 1960s, integrated a segregated Chapel Hill restaurant when he walked in with his pastor  
37 and black theology student; and

38           Whereas, Coach Smith was revered and loved by his players, coaching staff, and  
39 members of the UNC basketball family, and was respected and admired by his peers,  
40 colleagues, and UNC fans; and

41           Whereas, Coach Smith was a member of Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in  
42 Chapel Hill, NC; and

43           Whereas, Dean Smith died on February 7, 2015, at the age of 83, leaving his wife,  
44 Linnea; children, Sandy, Sharon, Kristen, Kelly, and Scott; seven grandchildren; and one  
45 great-grandchild to mourn his loss; Now, therefore,

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

47           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Dean Edwards Smith,  
48 former head coach of the men's basketball team at the University of North Carolina at Chapel  
49 Hill, and expresses the appreciation of this State for his many contributions to the game of  
50 basketball as well as education and social improvement.

- 1           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of
- 2 Dean Edwards Smith for the loss of a beloved family member.
- 3           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall send certified copies of this resolution to
- 4 the family of Dean Edwards Smith.
- 5           **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.