

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

FILED SENATE  
Jun 6, 2016  
S.J.R. 892  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR45499-LG-151B (04/25)

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Sponsors: Senators D. Davis and Pate (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOHN HOSEA KERR,  
2 III, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, was born on February 28, 1936, in Richmond, Virginia, to  
4 John H. Kerr, Jr. and Mary Hinton Duke Kerr; and

5 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, grew up in Warrenton, North Carolina, graduating from  
6 John Graham High School in 1954; and

7 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North  
8 Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1958, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was awarded a  
9 juris doctorate, with honors, from the University's School of Law in 1961, where he was a member  
10 of the Law Review and Order of the Coif; and

11 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, proudly served his country as a member of the North  
12 Carolina National Guard from 1954 to 1962, achieving the rank of sergeant; and

13 Whereas, after law school, John H. Kerr, III, and his wife, Sandra Moore Edgerton  
14 Kerr, moved to her hometown of Goldsboro, where he practiced law for over 50 years primarily in  
15 the areas of civil and corporate law and served in various leadership capacities for the bar  
16 associations in Wayne County, the Eighth Judicial District, and the State; and

17 Whereas, following a family tradition of public service, John H. Kerr, III, served with  
18 honor and distinction in the General Assembly, serving as a member of the House of  
19 Representatives from 1987 to 1992 and as a member of the Senate from 1993 to 2006; and

20 Whereas, while in the Senate, John H. Kerr, III, made significant contributions as  
21 cochair of the Finance and Revenue Laws Study Committees, vice-chair of the Select Committee  
22 on Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Military Affairs, and as a member of  
23 several committees, including Appropriations/Base Budget, Appropriations on Health and Human  
24 Services, Commerce, Judiciary II, Opportunities and Needs for Economic Growth in North  
25 Carolina, and Ways and Means; and

26 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, was a member of the Jaycees and Rotary Club and served  
27 on many boards, including the Wayne County Public Library, Wayne Memorial Building, Mount  
28 Olive College Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County, North Carolina National Bank,  
29 Southern National Bank, and Branch Banking and Trust; and

30 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, received numerous awards and recognitions during his  
31 lifetime, including being named Boss of the Year by the Goldsboro Charter Chapter of the  
32 American Business Women in 1978, and receiving the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished  
33 Citizen Award in 2008 for noteworthy and extraordinary leadership in his community; and

34 Whereas, in his long and distinguished career, John H. Kerr, III, earned the respect and  
35 affection of his peers and colleagues for his courage and candor, vigor and determination, keen  
36 intellect, and the enthusiasm which he gave to all of his endeavors; and



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1           Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, towered over many with his physical height, but never  
2 looked down on others; he worked to uplift and encourage people, and was especially proud to  
3 represent his district and spoke fondly of his constituents in Wayne County as he worked on issues  
4 in the General Assembly; and

5           Whereas, in his spare time, John H. Kerr, III, enjoyed spending time with his family,  
6 playing golf, hunting, and attending athletic events at the University of North Carolina at Chapel  
7 Hill; and

8           Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, was an active member of the Madison Avenue Baptist  
9 Church in Goldsboro; and

10          Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, died on May 24, 2015, after a distinguished life of public  
11 service; and

12          Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, is survived by his wife, Sandra Edgerton Kerr; two sons,  
13 John Hosea Kerr, IV, and James Yancey Kerr, II; four grandchildren: John Hosea Kerr, V, Isabel  
14 Sedwick Kerr, James Yancey Kerr, III, and Helen Edgerton Kerr; Now, therefore,  
15 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

16           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of John H. Kerr, III, and  
17 expresses its appreciation for his long and distinguished career as a lawyer and legislator and for  
18 his civic and political leadership.

19           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly of North Carolina extends its deep and sincere  
20 sympathy to the members of the family of John H. Kerr, III, for the loss of a beloved family  
21 member.

22           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
23 to the family of John H. Kerr, III.

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