

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 171

Sponsors: Senators Rand; Albertson, Basnight, Berger, Bingham, Carpenter, Carrington, Clodfelter, Dalton, Dannelly, Dorsett, Forrester, Foxx, Garrou, Garwood, Hagan, Holloman, Horton, Jenkins, Kerr, Lucas, Malone, Metcalf, Moore, Purcell, Reeves, Rucho, Shubert, Smith, Soles, Stevens, Swindell, Thomas, and Weinstein.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 25, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HARLAN E.
2 BOYLES, FORMER STATE TREASURER.

3 Whereas, Harlan E. Boyles was born on May 6, 1929, in the rural community
4 of Vale, in Lincoln County, the son of Curtis E. Boyles and Kate S. Boyles; and

5 Whereas, Harlan Boyles attended Lincoln County Public Schools 1935-45;
6 and

7 Whereas, stricken with polio at the age of 15, Harlan Boyles spent a year
8 recovering in facilities at Hickory and Charlotte; and

9 Whereas, Harlan Boyles graduated from Crossnore School in Avery County
10 in 1947, where Dr. Mary Sloop and other teachers saw a potential for greatness and
11 encouraged him to continue his education; and

12 Whereas, Harlan Boyles graduated from the University of North Carolina at
13 Chapel Hill in 1951 with a degree in accounting; and

14 Whereas, Harlan Boyles was employed by the State of North Carolina in
15 1951 as an auditor with the Department of Revenue; and

16 Whereas, Harlan Boyles became a certified public accountant in 1955; and

17 Whereas, Harlan Boyles, with his abundant energy, his impeccable integrity,
18 and his devotion to North Carolina quickly captured the admiration of the late Edwin M.
19 Gill, then the Commissioner of Revenue; and

20 Whereas, Harlan Boyles was named Deputy State Treasurer when Edwin M.
21 Gill was appointed State Treasurer; and

22 Whereas, Harlan Boyles' first assignment was to lead the effort to attain a
23 Triple-A credit rating for North Carolina, which he did promptly; and

24 Whereas, Harlan Boyles served as Deputy State Treasurer 16 years, his
25 principal assignment as Secretary of the Local Government Commission in which role

1 he assisted local government units in managing their public finance with particular
2 emphasis upon the prudent use of debt; and

3 Whereas, Harlan Boyles was elected State Treasurer in 1976 and, until his
4 retirement in 2000, was reelected to a total of six four-year terms culminating in a career
5 of 40 years in the Department of State Treasurer; and

6 Whereas, Harlan Boyles during his more than 49 years in public service
7 witnessed an era of unprecedented growth and prosperity for the State of North
8 Carolina; and

9 Whereas, Harlan Boyles served nine governors and countless legislators; and

10 Whereas, Harlan Boyles counted among his major achievements the
11 maintenance of North Carolina's Triple-A credit rating which saved taxpayers millions
12 of dollars in borrowing costs for building schools, highways, and other infrastructure;
13 and

14 Whereas, during his tenure as State Treasurer, trust funds under his prudent
15 management grew from under \$3 billion to more than \$70 billion; and

16 Whereas, as State Treasurer, he served on more boards and commissions than
17 any other official except the Governor, and in each of those capacities, Harlan Boyles
18 served with distinction, offering generously of his experience and wisdom to help serve
19 the people of North Carolina; and

20 Whereas, as an ex officio member of the State Board of Education for 24
21 years, Harlan Boyles became a consistent and outspoken advocate for improving our
22 public schools; and

23 Whereas, as an ex officio member of the Board of Community Colleges,
24 Harlan Boyles became a consistent and outspoken advocate of the various technical and
25 worker training programs offered by our outstanding system of community colleges;
26 and

27 Whereas, as Chairman of the State Banking Commission, Harlan Boyles
28 recognized the importance of strong financial institutions as a foundation for economic
29 growth and vitality of the State's commerce, and

30 Whereas, Harlan Boyles has helped pave the way for North Carolina
31 becoming one of the nation's great banking centers; and

32 Whereas, as Chairman of the Local Government Commission, Harlan Boyles
33 continued the effort begun during his 16 years as Deputy State Treasurer of assisting
34 local governments in becoming financially sound, and at the time of his retirement,
35 North Carolina had more Triple-A units of local government than any other state in the
36 nation, in fact, accounting for 25 percent of all the nation's Triple-A units of local
37 government; and

38 Whereas, under Harlan Boyles' leadership as Chairman of the Boards of
39 Trustees of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, Local Government
40 Employees' Retirement System, and Firemen's and Rescue Workers' Pension Fund,
41 North Carolina earned the enviable distinction of having the best managed public
42 employee retirement system in the nation, perhaps in all the world; and

43 Whereas, Harlan Boyles also served ably as a member of the Council of
44 State, Chairman of the Tax Review Board, Chairman of the North Carolina Educational

1 Facilities Finance Agency, Chairman of the North Carolina Solid Waste Management
2 Capital Projects Finance Agency, member of the Capital Planning Commission, North
3 Carolina Housing Partnership, and the North Carolina Air Cargo Airport Authority; and

4 Whereas, Harlan Boyles was recognized by his peers who elected him
5 President of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers,
6 and was named Public Official of the Year in 1995 by Governing Magazine; and the
7 National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers gave him their
8 President's Award in 1995; and

9 Whereas, Harlan Boyles was the recipient of numerous professional and
10 public service honors, including: the North Carolina Award for Public Service 1999;
11 North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry Distinguished Service Award 1987
12 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Distinguished Service Award
13 1993; Outstanding CPA in Business and Industry Award by the NC Association of
14 CPAs 1994; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Distinguished Alumnus Award
15 1995; and Honorary Doctorate Awards by Appalachian State University in 1994,
16 Campbell University in 1995, and Catawba College in 1996; and

17 Whereas, Harlan Boyles was inducted into the North Carolina Business Hall
18 of Fame in 2000 and received the I. E. Ready Award for Distinguished Service to the
19 North Carolina Community College System in 2000 and the A. E. Finley Award for
20 Distinguished Service in 2002; and

21 Whereas, Appalachian State University established a lecture series in his
22 honor in 1991 and it continues successfully to this day; and

23 Whereas, Harlan Boyles was the author of numerous articles on public
24 finance, and the highly acclaimed book, "Keeper of the Public Purse," published by
25 Appalachian State University in 1994; and

26 Whereas, Harlan Boyles, in addition to being a good and dedicated public
27 servant, was a loyal and devoted member of his church, Westminster Presbyterian
28 Church of Raleigh, during his entire adult life, serving as clerk, treasurer, deacon, and
29 elder; and

30 Whereas, Harlan Boyles died on January 23, 2003, at the age of 73, but his
31 legacy continues with his wife of 51 years, the former Frankie Wilder of Johnston
32 County; daughters, Mrs. Phyllis Godwin and husband, James R., of Raleigh; Mrs. Lynn
33 Butler and husband, Jeffrey, of Raleigh; son H. Edward Boyles, Jr. and wife, Meg, of
34 Charlotte; and five grandchildren, Kelly Butler, Zachary Butler, and Clint Ferrell of
35 Raleigh, and Harlan Boyles III and Blair Boyles of Charlotte; and

36 Whereas, as State Treasurer and as a public servant in other positions, Harlan
37 Boyles earned the respect of colleagues and peers throughout North Carolina and the
38 nation for his financial acumen, his knowledge and wisdom, his strength of character,
39 and especially for his great sense of personal integrity; and

40 Whereas, in his prime, Harlan Boyles was considered the best State Treasurer
41 in America; and

42 Whereas, Harlan Boyles will be remembered by all who knew him as a man
43 devoted to his family, church, community, State and public service; Now, therefore,
44 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

1 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Harlan Boyles
2 and expresses the appreciation and gratitude of this State and its citizens for his life and
3 service to the people of North Carolina.

4 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
5 family of Harlan Boyles for the loss of a dearly loved family member.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
7 resolution to the family of Harlan Boyles.

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