

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

S

D

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR65295-LG-211 (03/29)

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING NORTH CAROLINA'S VETERANS WHO
2 HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR, DISTINGUISHED
3 SERVICE CROSS, NAVY CROSS, AIR FORCE CROSS, OR SILVER STAR,
4 THE NATION'S HIGHEST AWARDS FOR VALOR AND HONORING THE
5 MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE
6 SERVING IN THE MILITARY.

7 Whereas, North Carolina is proud to be home to more than 110,000 military
8 personnel and nearly 770,000 veterans of our nation's armed forces; and

9 Whereas, the State of North Carolina expresses its gratitude to all current and
10 retired military personnel for their service to the United States, especially to those who
11 have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and the freedoms of all Americans; and

12 Whereas, the General Assembly wishes to specifically recognize those North
13 Carolina war veterans who have received the nation's highest honors for bravery; and

14 Whereas, the Medal of Honor is the nation's highest medal for valor that can
15 be awarded to members of the armed forces; and

16 Whereas, more than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded since the
17 decoration was created in 1861; and

18 Whereas, the Distinguished Service Cross was first established in 1918 as the
19 second-highest honor for members of the military, but in later years Congress saw fit to
20 establish awards of similar stature, just beneath the Medal of Honor, for specific
21 branches of the armed forces; and

22 Whereas, today, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, and the Air
23 Force Cross are our nation's second-highest awards for valor, second only to the Medal
24 of Honor; and

25 Whereas, today, the Distinguished Service Cross recognizes a person who,
26 while serving in any capacity with the United States Army, distinguishes himself or
27 herself by extraordinary heroism, not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor, while
28 engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military

1 operations involving conflict with an opposing or foreign force; or while serving with
2 friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in
3 which the United States is not a belligerent party; and

4 Whereas, the Navy Cross, which was first established in 1919 as a medal of
5 lesser importance, was revised by Congress to recognize extraordinary heroism, not
6 justifying the award of a Medal of Honor, by any person, who while serving with the
7 United States Navy, the United States Marine Corps, or the United States Coast Guard
8 while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force,
9 or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in conflict against an opposing
10 armed force in which the United States in not a belligerent party; and

11 Whereas, the Air Force Cross was established in 1960 to recognize
12 extraordinary heroism, not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor, by any person,
13 who while serving with the United States Air Force while engaged in military
14 operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with
15 friendly foreign forces engaged in conflict against an opposing armed force in which the
16 United States in not a belligerent party; and

17 Whereas, the Silver Star was first established by Congress in 1918 as the
18 Citation Star for United States Army personnel and was later amended so that it may be
19 awarded to any individual – military, civilian, or foreign – who, while serving in any
20 capacity with the armed forces of the United States, distinguishes himself or herself by
21 gallantry in action under any of the following circumstances: (i) against an enemy of the
22 United States; (ii) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an
23 opposing foreign force; (iii) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an
24 armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a
25 belligerent party; and

26 Whereas, these aforementioned medals are the nation's highest honors
27 bestowed to members of the military in order to recognize valor and gallantry; and

28 Whereas, on behalf of the State of North Carolina, the General Assembly
29 wishes to express its profound appreciation to those North Carolinians who have
30 received such prestigious awards for their bravery; Now, therefore,

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

32 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors those members of the military
33 who have lost their lives in the defense of the safety and liberty of the people of the
34 United States of America.

35 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly acknowledges and expresses its
36 appreciation and gratitude to those North Carolinians, both living and deceased, who
37 have received the nation's highest medals for their valor and gallantry.

38 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.