

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

S

D

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR35219-LG-228B (3/31)

Sponsors: Senator Jacumin.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HENRY
2 GARDNER "RED" GIBSON, PATRIOT AND WORLD WAR II VETERAN.

3 Whereas, Henry Gardner "Red" Gibson was born on May 29, 1921, in Iredell
4 County, to Roy Clifton Gibson and Mary Ellen Webber Gibson; and

5 Whereas, Red Gibson proudly served his country during World War II as a
6 member of the United States Army; and

7 Whereas, Red Gibson earned a World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct
8 Medal, American Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific
9 Campaign Medal and Bronze Star Attachment, and an honorable service lapel button;
10 and

11 Whereas, Red Gibson served as a member of the Merchant Marines from
12 1949 to 1950; and

13 Whereas, after serving in the military, Red Gibson moved to the Icard
14 Community in Burke County; and

15 Whereas, Red Gibson was married on December 7, the anniversary of Pearl
16 Harbor, which was an important date in American history that he never wanted to
17 forget; and

18 Whereas, Red Gibson tried to resume a normal life, but he was haunted by the
19 horrors he'd experienced during the war and hampered physically because of a head
20 injury he'd suffered in combat; and

21 Whereas, the continuing nightmares eventually took a toll on his family; and

22 Whereas, despite his troubles, Red Gibson worked in the local mills, as a
23 plumber and gardener, and in later years, collected cans to support himself and maintain
24 his dignity; and

25 Whereas, Red Gibson could not afford luxuries, he walked everywhere he
26 went and often got by without basic necessities like electricity and running water, but he
27 never gave up on himself or his country; and

1 Whereas, Red Gibson normally dressed in military fatigues and carried the
2 American flag as he walked to the bridge near his modest home and stood guard each
3 day for many years; and

4 Whereas, although Red Gibson was initially ridiculed by many in his
5 community for his unusual rituals, he was eventually embraced by them as a true
6 patriot, particularly after the terrorist attacks on our country on September 11, 2001; and

7 Whereas, Red Gibson was buoyed by his neighbors when, in an act of
8 solidarity, they stopped laughing and began saluting him out of respect and patriotic
9 pride as they passed him marching on the road and guarding the bridge; and

10 Whereas, Red Gibson was finally being recognized for his dedication and
11 service to his country when he was brutally murdered in his home on February 5, 2004;
12 and

13 Whereas, Red Gibson's death saddened the entire Burke County community;
14 and

15 Whereas, Red Gibson is survived by his daughters, Mary Margaret Gibson
16 Gentry and Betty Sue Gibson Reid; and

17 Whereas, Red Gibson deserves to be commended for his service and devotion
18 to this country; Now, therefore,

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

20 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Henry
21 Gardner "Red" Gibson and expresses the gratitude and appreciation of the citizens of
22 this State for his service to his country.

23 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
24 family of Henry Gardner "Red" Gibson for the loss of a beloved family member.

25 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
26 resolution to the family of Henry Gardner "Red" Gibson.

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