

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 886\***

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Sponsors: Representatives Crawford; Alexander and Luebke.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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March 20, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF BEN W.  
2 AIKEN, AN ADVOCATE FOR PERSONS NEEDING SERVICES AND  
3 SUPPORTS FOR MENTAL ILLNESS, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,  
4 AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

5       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken was born on June 5, 1920, in Creedmoor, North  
6 Carolina, to Elbert L. Aiken and Elsie Hester Aiken; and

7       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken lived his entire life in North Carolina and devoted  
8 his entire career to serving the people of North Carolina; and

9       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken completed his education at the University of North  
10 Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning a bachelor's degree; and

11       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken began his career in 1947 as the Assistant Business  
12 Manager at John Umstead Hospital in Butner, where he spent 20 years working to  
13 assure quality patient care; and

14       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken became the General Business Manager of the North  
15 Carolina Department of Mental Health in Raleigh in 1968; and

16       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken became the first Assistant Secretary of Human  
17 Resources under State government reorganization in 1973, during which time he helped  
18 meld very divergent departments into one human services unit, and also served on the  
19 first Mental Health Study Commission; and

20       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken returned to the Division of Mental Health,  
21 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services in 1977 as its first  
22 nonmedical Director; and

23       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken retired from State government in 1983 as Deputy  
24 Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, and

25       Whereas, Ben W. Aiken continued his advocacy for persons with mental  
26 illness, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases as a legislative liaison for the  
27 North Carolina Psychological Association for 20 years, and as a member of the  
28 Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse  
29 Services; and also as an advocate for those with vision impairment through United  
30 Action for the Blind; and

1           Whereas, Ben W. Aiken served his community as an active member of the  
2 Benson Memorial United Methodist Church, as a member of the Board of Directors of  
3 the Methodist Home for Children, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the  
4 State Employees Credit Union; and

5           Whereas, Ben W. Aiken devoted his career and life to improving the lives of  
6 the citizens of North Carolina, especially those with disabilities; and

7           Whereas, Ben W. Aiken received countless honors and awards for his work,  
8 including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine; and

9           Whereas, Ben W. Aiken died on December 24, 2005, leaving to mourn his  
10 loss, his wife, Helen; two daughters, Donna and Deborah; three grandchildren; and  
11 countless friends; Now, therefore,

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

13           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Ben W.  
14 Aiken and expresses its appreciation for his invaluable contributions to services for  
15 persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases.

16           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the  
17 family of Ben W. Aiken for the loss of a distinguished family member.

18           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
19 resolution to the family of Ben W. Aiken.

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