

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR35220-LG-366* (3/12)

Sponsors: Senator Nesbitt.

Referred to:

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

1 Services; and also as an advocate for those with vision impairment through United
2 Action for the Blind; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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