

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 668

Sponsors: Representatives T. Moore, McElraft, Glazier, and Szoka (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

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

April 14, 2015

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY AND LIVES OF VICTIMS OF THE
2 HOLOCAUST, INCLUDING THOSE WHO PERISHED IN AND THOSE WHO
3 SURVIVED NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS, AND RECOGNIZING AND
4 HONORING THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHOSE COURAGE AND
5 BRAVERY LED TO THE LIBERATION OF THOSE CAMPS ON THIS SEVENTIETH
6 ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S LIBERATION OF THE
7 INFAMOUS DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP.

8 Whereas, April 29, 2015, marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the
9 infamous Nazi concentration camp at Dachau, Germany; and

10 Whereas, in 1933, Dachau became the first major concentration camp established by
11 the Nazi regime, serving as a training center for SS concentration camp guards and
12 incarcerating clergy, Jews, political opponents of the Nazis, and homosexuals and others
13 labeled as "undesirable elements" by the Nazis; and

14 Whereas, prisoners were executed in Dachau and its many surrounding sub-camps,
15 as well as being starved to death and worked to death; and

16 Whereas, Dachau included an "experimental station," which conducted medical
17 experiments through the use of hypothermia, forced diseases, and other atrocities to observe
18 and document their gruesome and agonizing effects on defenseless prisoners; and

19 Whereas, Dachau was one of a system of concentration camps and their sub-camps
20 in which millions perished during World War II; and

21 Whereas, the estimates of prisoners who died or were executed at Dachau is nearly
22 50,000 persons; and

23 Whereas, prior to its liberation, Dachau held nearly 70,000 prisoners; and

24 Whereas, the United States Armed Forces, and particularly the United States
25 Seventh Army's 42nd and 45th Infantry Divisions, with support of the 20th Armored Division,
26 played the lead role in the liberation of Dachau and its surrounding camps; and

27 Whereas, on April 29, 1945, these divisions of the U.S. Army, which had fought
28 their way through Europe and were proceeding to capture the German city of Munich, arrived
29 at the concentration camp at Dachau on April 29, 1945, and seized control of that camp; and

30 Whereas, upon their arrival at Dachau, the United States Army discovered a string
31 of approximately 40 railway cars sitting on a siding near the camp entrance, loaded with
32 thousands of emaciated corpses of prisoners who had been moved from other concentration
33 camps; and



1 Whereas, the Dachau concentration camp included a crematorium, gas chamber, and
2 adjacent rooms piled high with naked and emaciated human corpses at the time the U.S. Army
3 liberated the camp; and

4 Whereas, on the days prior to and following the liberation of Dachau, the U.S. Army
5 liberated Jews and others who were on forced death marches or transports to and from Dachau
6 and other concentration camps, including North Carolina residents Morris Glass, Abe Piasek,
7 Harry Weiss, and others; and

8 Whereas, on the days following their liberation of Dachau, the U.S. Seventh Army
9 took over administration of the Dachau camp, supplying food and medical supplies and
10 establishing evacuation hospitals to assume the care and feeding of the prisoners; and

11 Whereas, a Dachau survivor gave U.S. Army Air Corps soldier David Walter
12 Corsbie, Jr., an "ashcake" containing the ashes of an unknown number of individuals killed at
13 Dachau and urged him to take them home as a reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust; and

14 Whereas, David Walter Corsbie hid the ashes in his Surry County home until shortly
15 before his death in 1986, before transmitting them to his son Joe; and

16 Whereas, through the efforts of David Walter Corsbie's family and Holocaust
17 survivors and their children, and The Holocaust Speakers Bureau in Chapel Hill and Durham's
18 Beth El Synagogue, those ashes were given a proper burial at the Durham Hebrew Cemetery on
19 May 25, 2014; and

20 Whereas, North Carolina is the home to many Holocaust survivors and veterans
21 who were involved in the liberation of concentration camps during World War II and whose
22 age and mortality are diminishing their ranks, including the recently deceased U.S. Army
23 veteran liberators Robert Patton and Bud Parsons, North Carolinians who spoke at the State's
24 commemoration of the annual "Days of Remembrance" program in 2011, presented by the
25 North Carolina Council on the Holocaust; and

26 Whereas, North Carolina is the home of major military bases, including Fort Bragg,
27 the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Marine Corps Air Station New River, Marine Corps
28 Base Camp Lejeune, Seymour Johnson and Pope Air Force bases, and the Coast Guard station
29 at Elizabeth City, as well as the North Carolina National Guard; and

30 Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and
31 Division of Veterans Affairs serve and bear witness to the courage of the United States Armed
32 Forces involved in these liberation efforts; and

33 Whereas, the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, established by the State in
34 1981, works tirelessly with Holocaust survivors to promote and provide Holocaust education
35 for our teachers and students throughout the State and has worked tirelessly to organize this and
36 various other recognitions to give meaning to the promise, "never again"; Now, therefore,
37 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

38 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly of North Carolina honors the courage,
39 memories, and sacrifices of victims of the Holocaust, including those who perished in and those
40 who survived Nazi concentration camps, including Dachau.

41 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly recognizes and honors the courage and
42 bravery of United States Armed Forces whose mighty and heroic efforts led to the liberation of
43 those camps.

44 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly of North Carolina recognizes and honors
45 those Holocaust survivors, together with military commanders and representatives of the
46 liberators of the United States Armed Forces based in North Carolina and representatives of the
47 American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs.

48 **SECTION 4.** The General Assembly of North Carolina expresses gratitude to those
49 persons and entities hosting and participating in events this year commemorating the 70th
50 anniversary of the liberation of Dachau and other concentration camps and applauds the efforts
51 of the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust and its members and hereby reaffirms its

1 support of and commitment to educational efforts to teach current and future generations about
2 the Holocaust, to preserve the memory of those murdered, and to prevent future genocides.

3 **SECTION 5.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
4 resolution to the Secretary of the United States Army in recognition of its liberation of the
5 Dachau concentration camp, and to the commanders of all military bases in North Carolina, the
6 North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, the Holocaust Speakers Bureau in Chapel Hill, the
7 Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Director of the North
8 Carolina Museum of History.

9 **SECTION 6.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.