

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2015

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 892

Sponsors: Senators D. Davis and Pate (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Calendar 6/8/2016

June 7, 2016

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOHN HOSEA KERR,
2 III, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, was born on February 28, 1936, in Richmond, Virginia, to
4 John H. Kerr, Jr. and Mary Hinton Duke Kerr; and

5 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, grew up in Warrenton, North Carolina, graduating from
6 John Graham High School in 1954; and

7 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North
8 Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1958, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was awarded a
9 juris doctorate, with honors, from the University's School of Law in 1961, where he was a member
10 of the Law Review and Order of the Coif; and

11 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, proudly served his country as a member of the North
12 Carolina National Guard from 1954 to 1962, achieving the rank of sergeant; and

13 Whereas, after law school, John H. Kerr, III, and his wife, Sandra Moore Edgerton
14 Kerr, moved to her hometown of Goldsboro, where he practiced law for over 50 years primarily in
15 the areas of civil and corporate law and served in various leadership capacities for the bar
16 associations in Wayne County, the Eighth Judicial District, and the State; and

17 Whereas, following a family tradition of public service, John H. Kerr, III, served with
18 honor and distinction in the General Assembly, serving as a member of the House of
19 Representatives from 1987 to 1992 and as a member of the Senate from 1993 to 2006; and

20 Whereas, while in the Senate, John H. Kerr, III, made significant contributions as
21 cochair of the Finance and Revenue Laws Study Committees, vice-chair of the Select Committee
22 on Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Military Affairs, and as a member of
23 several committees, including Appropriations/Base Budget, Appropriations on Health and Human
24 Services, Commerce, Judiciary II, Opportunities and Needs for Economic Growth in North
25 Carolina, and Ways and Means; and

26 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, was a member of the Jaycees and Rotary Club and served
27 on many boards, including the Wayne County Public Library, Wayne Memorial Building, Mount
28 Olive College Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County, North Carolina National Bank,
29 Southern National Bank, and Branch Banking and Trust; and

30 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, received numerous awards and recognitions during his
31 lifetime, including being named Boss of the Year by the Goldsboro Charter Chapter of the
32 American Business Women in 1978, and receiving the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished
33 Citizen Award in 2008 for noteworthy and extraordinary leadership in his community; and

34 Whereas, in his long and distinguished career, John H. Kerr, III, earned the respect and
35 affection of his peers and colleagues for his courage and candor, vigor and determination, keen
36 intellect, and the enthusiasm which he gave to all of his endeavors; and

37 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, towered over many with his physical height, but never
38 looked down on others; he worked to uplift and encourage people, and was especially proud to



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1 represent his district and spoke fondly of his constituents in Wayne County as he worked on issues
2 in the General Assembly; and

3 Whereas, in his spare time, John H. Kerr, III, enjoyed spending time with his family,
4 playing golf, hunting, and attending athletic events at the University of North Carolina at Chapel
5 Hill; and

6 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, was an active member of the Madison Avenue Baptist
7 Church in Goldsboro; and

8 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, died on May 24, 2015, after a distinguished life of public
9 service; and

10 Whereas, John H. Kerr, III, is survived by his wife, Sandra Edgerton Kerr; two sons,
11 John Hosea Kerr, IV, and James Yancey Kerr, II; four grandchildren: John Hosea Kerr, V, Isabel
12 Sedwick Kerr, James Yancey Kerr, III, and Helen Edgerton Kerr; Now, therefore,

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

14 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of John H. Kerr, III, and
15 expresses its appreciation for his long and distinguished career as a lawyer and legislator and for
16 his civic and political leadership.

17 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly of North Carolina extends its deep and sincere
18 sympathy to the members of the family of John H. Kerr, III, for the loss of a beloved family
19 member.

20 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
21 to the family of John H. Kerr, III.

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