

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1987 SESSION
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 28
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 91

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DR. RONALD E. MCNAIR, ASTRONAUT AND DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST.

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair was born in Lake City, South Carolina, the son of Pearl M. McNair and Carl McNair; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair graduated from Carver High School in Lake City, South Carolina; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair arrived at North Carolina A&T University, a predominantly black institution, in September 1967, to pursue a degree in physics; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair went on to graduate in physics, with honors, and armed with the tools that would launch his career on a trajectory through graduate school, into industrial laboratories, and ultimately, aboard the space shuttle; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair received a doctor of philosophy degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976 specializing in lasers; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair was involved in a number of internationally significant experiments that provided new understanding and applications for highly excited polyatomic molecules; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair published several papers in the areas of lasers and molecular spectroscopy and gave many presentations in the United States and Europe; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair was one of four blacks selected out of 11,000 applicants for the U.S. space program; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair was a member of NASA's space shuttle mission ST-11 aboard the Challenger in February 1984; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair was an accomplished jazz saxaphonist; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair was a black-belt karate master and a teacher of karate; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair was deeply committed to young people and helped to initiate a student space shuttle program at North Carolina A&T University; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair was a loving husband and father; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair died Tuesday, January 28, 1986, while serving as a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Challenger; and

Whereas, Ronald E. McNair is survived by his wife, the former Cheryl Moore of Jamaica, New York, and two children, Reginald and Joy, and his parents, Mrs. Pearl M. McNair and Carl McNair;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina expresses its deep appreciation for the life, the accomplishments, and the courage of Dr. Ronald E. McNair and for the great service he rendered to science and to his country.

Sec. 2. The General Assembly of North Carolina extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Ronald E. McNair for the great loss they have suffered.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Ronald E. McNair.

Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

1987. In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 12th day of June,

Robert B. Jordan III
President of the Senate

Liston B. Ramsey
Speaker of the House of Representatives