

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1235

Sponsors: Representatives Gray, Womble, Esposito, Oldham, Sexton, Decker, and Brown.

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

May 29, 1997

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF EDGAR M.
2 "LONESOME ED" MCKNIGHT, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY.

4 Whereas, Edgar M. McKnight was born on June 21, 1908, in Dallas, North
5 Carolina, to Samuel W. McKnight and Bessie White McKnight; and

6 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight served his country as a sergeant in the
7 United States Marine Corps from 1924 to 1932; and

8 Whereas, Edgar M. McKnight was married to the former Dorothy Essex on
9 November 26, 1952, and the father of four children; and

10 Whereas, Edgar M. McKnight was a successful businessman in Winston-
11 Salem, where he owned and served as President of his company, Edmac, Inc., a welding
12 supply and air compressor business; and

13 Whereas, Edgar M. McKnight was active in his community serving as a
14 member of the Winston-Salem Twin City Club, the Elks Club, and the Clemmons Civic
15 Club; and

16 Whereas, Edgar M. McKnight was a member of the Calvary Moravian
17 Church in Winston-Salem, where he held numerous offices and served in various
18 capacities; and

19 Whereas, Edgar M. McKnight ran for a seat in the North Carolina House of
20 Representatives from Forsyth County in 1964, and won the election becoming the first
21 Republican elected countywide in Forsyth County in the twentieth century; and

1 Whereas, Edgar M. McKnight was labeled by the local newspaper, the Twin
2 City Sentinel early in his term as "Lonesome Ed" because the other members of his
3 local House delegation didn't tell him about the meeting times of the local caucus; and

4 Whereas, Edgar M. McKnight wore his new name as a badge of honor and
5 campaigned during the next election as "Lonesome Ed" putting the new nickname on
6 the ballot; and

7 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight was not lonesome after the 1966
8 election winning reelection while helping elect all of his fellow Republican candidates
9 in Forsyth County to the State House and Senate; and

10 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight won reelection to the State House again
11 in 1968, and helped the Republicans capture all five House seats and both State Senate
12 seats in Forsyth County for the first time ever; and

13 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight won reelection to the State House again
14 in 1970 and 1972; and

15 Whereas, on October 4, 1974, Governor James Holshouser appointed
16 "Lonesome Ed" McKnight to fill a vacancy in the State Senate; and

17 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight served with great distinction during his
18 five terms in the North Carolina General Assembly helping to create a more open and
19 deliberative atmosphere in the legislative body; and

20 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight was a strong supporter of improved
21 education, an expanded parks system, better highways and transportation systems, and
22 better environmental controls; and

23 Whereas, the Winston-Salem Journal and Twin City Sentinel both recognized
24 "Lonesome Ed" McKnight's great political talents and abilities and continually endorsed
25 him in election after election; and

26 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight eagerly and willingly mentored many
27 other young office seekers and officeholders throughout his entire political career and
28 added immeasurably to their chances for success; and

29 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight died on November 4, 1994, just a few
30 days before he could have seen his lifelong dream of seeing a Republican Speaker of the
31 North Carolina House of Representatives; and

32 Whereas, "Lonesome Ed" McKnight was preceded in death by a daughter,
33 Doris M. Matthews, and is survived by his wife, Dorothy E. McKnight; his sons, Don
34 B. McKnight and Keith J. McKnight; his daughter, Gayle M. Dion; and five
35 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

36 Whereas, with the death of "Lonesome Ed" McKnight, the State of North
37 Carolina has lost a most able, outstanding, devoted, and loyal citizen; Now, therefore,
38 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

39 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Edgar M.
40 "Lonesome Ed" McKnight and expresses the appreciation of this State for the service he
41 rendered.

42 Section 2. The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family
43 and friends of Edgar M. "Lonesome Ed" McKnight for their loss.

1 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
2 resolution to the family of Edgar M. "Lonesome Ed" McKnight.

3 Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.