

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1561

Sponsors: Senator Soles.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 14, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM
2 DUDLEY ROBBINS, SR., FORMER LIEUTENANT COLONEL OF THE
3 UNITED STATES ARMY.

4 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins was born on February 8, 1921, to W.H.
5 "Red" Robbins and Izma Jennette Robbins in the City of Raleigh; and

6 Whereas, as a young boy, William Dudley Robbins moved with his family to
7 Pender County; and

8 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins graduated from Burgaw High School in
9 1938 and received a degree in horticulture from North Carolina State University in
10 1942, where he served as president of the student body and Cadet Colonel of the ROTC
11 and was a member of the football, baseball, and boxing teams; and

12 Whereas, after college, William Dudley Robbins proudly served in the United
13 States Army during World War II, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge; and

14 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins spent time as a prisoner of war from
15 December 1944 to May 1945, and was awarded the Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's
16 Badge, the Purple Heart, and three Battle Stars; and

17 Whereas, upon his discharge from the army, William Dudley Robbins joined
18 the Army Reserves, remaining an active member until 1964 and reaching the rank of
19 Lieutenant Colonel; and

20 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins' deep affinity for the land and his
21 background in horticulture provided the foundation in helping him to succeed as the
22 owner of Robbins Nursery in the Town of Penderlea; and

23 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins was an active supporter of veterans and
24 veterans' rights and in 1965, became a charter member of the American Legion Post 165
25 in Burgaw; and

26 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins served as Post Commander for two years
27 and was later elected District Commander, State Vice Commander, and State
28 Commander; and

29 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins went on to serve on the National
30 Executive Committee and as a member of the American Legion's National Insurance

1 Committee, the National Americanism Commission, and the National Security
2 Commission; and

3 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins was appointed to the North Carolina
4 Veterans Commission, serving under Governors Daniel T. Moore, James B. Hunt, Jr.,
5 and Michael F. Easley, and served as Chair of the North Carolina Veterans Affairs
6 Commission from June 2003 to September 2004; and

7 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins strongly believed in educating the youth
8 in his community, serving as Chair of the Pender County Board of Education for 23
9 years of his 25-year tenure; and

10 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins was a strong participant in his
11 community, serving as a Ruritan and Mason for more than 50 years, as a Shriner, and as
12 a charter member of both the Pender County Rescue Squad and the Penderlea Fire
13 Department; and

14 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf
15 Pine by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., and presented a POW Medal by Congressman
16 Mike McIntyre; and

17 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins was active in the Saint Mary's Episcopal
18 Church in Burgaw, where he was a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school
19 superintendent, and a member of the Vestry; and

20 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins died on March 13, 2007, at the age of 86;
21 and

22 Whereas, William Dudley Robbins is survived by his wife, Jacquelyne
23 Gordon Robbins; four sons, William Dudley "Bill" Robbins, Jr., Wilfred Lee "Red"
24 Robbins, Martin Gordon "Marty" Robbins, and James Thomas "Jimbo" Robbins; six
25 grandchildren; and several other close relatives; Now, therefore,

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

27 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of William Dudley
28 Robbins, Sr., and expresses the appreciation of this State and its citizens for his
29 contributions and service.

30 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
31 family of William Dudley Robbins, Sr., for the loss of a beloved and distinguished
32 family member.

33 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
34 resolution to the family of William Dudley Robbins, Sr.

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