

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 718

Sponsors: Senator Tillman (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

July 28, 2015

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HARRIS BLAKE,
2 FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Harris Blake was born on November 3, 1929, in Jackson Springs, North
4 Carolina, to Evander Blake and Claudia Parker Blake; and

5 Whereas, despite becoming an orphan at the age of five, Harris Blake graduated
6 from West End High School in 1948 and attended Elon University; and

7 Whereas, Harris Blake served in the United States Army during the Korean War
8 and, for his service, earned the Good Conduct Award; and

9 Whereas, Harris Blake began his career as a clerk for Pinehurst Hardware and
10 Supply Company, and later became the manager, before eventually buying the business and
11 expanding it to three locations; and

12 Whereas, Harris Blake later ventured into commercial development and established
13 Pinehurst South Realty; and

14 Whereas, Harris Blake was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as an associate
15 administrator for the Farmers Home Administration within the US Department of Agriculture,
16 and served in that position from 1985 to 1986; and

17 Whereas, Harris Blake was elected to the North Carolina Senate in 2002, where he
18 served with honor and distinction for five terms; and

19 Whereas, during his tenure in the Senate, Harris Blake was a member of several
20 committees, including Appropriations/Base Budget, Commerce, Small Business and
21 Entrepreneurship, Finance, Health Care, and State and Local Government, and was able to
22 work with members on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation; and

23 Whereas, Harris Blake was a co-founder of the Carolina China Council, a nonprofit
24 organization that promotes business, cultural, and education exchanges between North Carolina
25 and China; and

26 Whereas, Harris Blake worked with the Chinese government to return to Moore
27 County the remains of Lt. Robert Hoyle Upchurch, a Flying Tiger pilot killed in World War II;
28 and

29 Whereas, Harris Blake was active in his community and was elected or appointed to
30 several boards, including Moore Regional Hospital, Moore Regional Foundation, Moore
31 County Board of Education, Sandhills Community College, Sandhills Area Chamber of
32 Commerce, Pinehurst Lions Club, Sandhills Kiwanis Club, and Moore County Historical
33 Society; and

34 Whereas, Harris Blake also served as chair of fund-raising for Moore Buddies
35 Program and president of NC/SC Elmco; and

36 Whereas, Harris Blake was awarded the State's highest honor, the Order of the Long
37 Leaf Pine, in 2013; and



1 Whereas, Harris Blake died on June 9, 2014, at the age of 84; and
2 Whereas, Harris Blake was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Barbara Carter
3 Blake; and
4 Whereas, Harris Blake is survived by his daughter, Joy; son-in-law, Luke Donat; a
5 brother, Waylon Blake; and a sister, Betty McNeill; and
6 Whereas, Harris Blake will be remembered as a true southern gentleman who
7 treated everyone with respect and dignity and went out of his way to help those in need; Now,
8 therefore,
9 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:
10 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Harris Blake and
11 expresses its appreciation for his many accomplishments and his service to the State of North
12 Carolina.
13 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family of Harris
14 Blake for the loss of a beloved family member.
15 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
16 resolution to the family of Harris Blake.
17 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.