

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

FILED SENATE  
Aug 17, 2015  
S.J.R. 720  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

S

D

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR45402-LG-128D (08/06)

---

Sponsors: Senator Rabin (Primary Sponsor).

---

Referred to:

---

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

2 Whereas, World War II was a global conflict involving more than 30 countries  
3 which lasted from 1939 to 1945, with major battles across Europe, the Pacific Ocean, and the  
4 Middle East; and

5 Whereas, in 1941, the United States of America, seeking peaceful solutions to issues  
6 vital to U.S. national security interests, was engaged in diplomatic negotiations with envoys of  
7 the Empire of Japan to resolve these issues; and

8 Whereas, on Sunday, December 7, 1941, while these negotiations were in progress,  
9 military forces of the Empire of Japan executed a surprise attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, then  
10 a Territory of the United States; and

11 Whereas, most of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was at anchor at Pearl Harbor on that day  
12 and was the main target of that surprise attack, within less than two hours Japanese warplanes  
13 sank or damaged eight battleships (including the USS Arizona), three light cruisers, three  
14 destroyers, and four other naval vessels, destroyed over 130 aircraft, and killed more than 2,400  
15 Americans; and

16 Whereas, this act of aggression prompted President Franklin D. Roosevelt to  
17 address the U.S. Congress on December 8, 1945, to ask for a declaration of war and opened his  
18 remarks with these historic words: "Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in  
19 infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air  
20 forces of the Empire of Japan"; and

21 Whereas, on December 11, 1941, in support of Japan's aggression, Nazi Germany  
22 also declared war on the U.S.; and

23 Whereas, because of Japan's "unprovoked and dastardly attack" on a U.S. Territory  
24 and U.S. Forces and Nazi Germany's declaration of war, the United States of America was  
25 entered into World War II; and

26 Whereas, more than 16 million courageous Americans of the "greatest generation"  
27 served with honor, distinction, and patriotism, fighting in every theater of operation during that  
28 war for the freedoms we enjoy today and playing a critical role in decisive battles around the  
29 world, with more than 405,000 making the supreme sacrifice; and

30 Whereas, over 360,000 North Carolinians served in that War, of which more than  
31 6,300 were killed; and

32 Whereas, on May 7, 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally to the U.S.,  
33 marking that date V-E Day, leaving its ally, The Empire of Japan, to stand alone against the  
34 U.S. and its allies in the Pacific Theater; and



1           Whereas, on August 6, 1945, an American B-29 "Flying Fortress" named "Enola  
2     Gay" with North Carolina native, Colonel (Retired) Thomas W. Ferebee, a veteran of 60  
3     bombing missions in the European Theater, serving as the lead bombardier, dropped the world's  
4     first atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, which was followed by a second atomic  
5     bomb mission on Nagasaki, Japan, three days later; and

6           Whereas, on August 14, 1945, due largely to the effects of those atomic weapons,  
7     the Japanese government accepted the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration and agreed to an  
8     unconditional surrender marking that day as V-J Day, bringing an end to hostilities in the  
9     Pacific, thus ending World War II and saving an estimated one million or more U.S. casualties  
10    had the war continued and the allies been forced to invade Japan's home islands; and

11          Whereas, 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the surrender of the Empire of Japan  
12    and the end of World War II; and

13          Whereas, with less than one million World War II veterans alive today in the United  
14    States, we must take the time to honor and remember and thank the men and women of "the  
15    greatest generation," who valiantly and with great honor defended our great Nation's freedoms  
16    against the forces of darkness and evil who would surely have denied us those freedoms; Now,  
17    therefore,

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

19          **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to express its deepest and most  
20    heartfelt appreciation to the veterans of World War II and their families for their remarkable  
21    contributions and service to the people of North Carolina, the United States of America, and the  
22    free world. They held high the torch of freedom and we should be ever mindful that the task of  
23    preserving that fragile freedom is now ours.

24          **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly wishes to honor the life and memory of those  
25    who died while serving during World War II.

26          **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.