

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2011**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR35015-LG-14 (01/20)**

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Sponsors:     Senator Vaughan.

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Referred to:

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1   A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOHN MCNEILL  
2   SMITH, JR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., was born on April 9, 1918, in Robeson County,  
4   to Dr. John McNeill Smith, Sr., and Roberta Olivia Andrew Smith; and

5         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., attended the Rowland Public Schools and earned  
6   an A.B. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1938 and a law degree  
7   from Columbia University in 1941; and

8         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., served in the United States Navy during World  
9   War II from 1941 to 1945, achieving the rank of Lt. Commander; and

10         Whereas, after serving in the military, John McNeill Smith, Jr., worked as an  
11   attorney for more than 50 years in the City of Greensboro and became well known for his work  
12   in the areas of civil rights and liberties; and

13         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., served his profession in many capacities, serving  
14   as chair of the Individual Rights Section of the American Bar Association, chair of the North  
15   Carolina Bar Association Section on Constitutional Law, chair of the Committee on  
16   Constitutional Integrity, and as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States Court  
17   of Appeals, International Association of Insurance Counsel, and the American Judicature  
18   Society; and

19         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., was elected to the North Carolina House of  
20   Representatives in 1970 and, on December 31, 1971, was appointed by Governor Robert W.  
21   Scott to fill a vacancy in the North Carolina Senate; and

22         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., served with distinction three additional terms in  
23   the Senate during the 1973, 1975, and 1977 sessions of the General Assembly; and

24         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., made significant contributions as chair of the  
25   North Carolina State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights,  
26   director of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, chair of the Downtown Improvement  
27   Committee, president of the American Freedom Association, chair of the Southeastern World  
28   Affairs Institute, president of the American Business Club, and director of the Excellence Fund  
29   for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and

30         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., served as a member of the Board of Directors of  
31   the Hayes-Taylor YMCA and the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Outward Bound  
32   School and was a member of several other organizations, including Delta Kappa Epsilon and  
33   Phi Delta Phi fraternities; and

34         Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., made significant contributions as a member of  
35   the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research from 1980 to 1992 and as the chair of the  
36   North Carolina Board of Ethics from 1980 to 1984; and



1           Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., received recognition in the National Law Journal  
2 as one of the 100 most influential attorneys in the United States in 1985 and was the recipient  
3 of the Distinguished Service Award from the Greensboro Bar Association in 2000; and

4           Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., was honored by the North Carolina Bar  
5 Association in 2006 when the Constitutional Rights and Responsibilities Section established an  
6 award in his honor that is given "to a person who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment  
7 to the ideals embodied in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of North  
8 Carolina"; and

9           Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., was active in the religious affairs of his  
10 community, serving as president of the Greensboro Association of Churches and Synagogues,  
11 vice president of the North Carolina Council of Churches, chair of the Ecumenical Affairs  
12 Commission and Sunday school teacher for the West Market Street United Methodist Church,  
13 and a lifelong member of the Rowland United Methodist Church; and

14           Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., died on January 15, 2011, at the age of 92; and

15           Whereas, John McNeill Smith, Jr., was married to the late Louise Huske Jordan  
16 Smith and is survived by four children: Louise Jordan Smith Nichols; Anne Talbott Smith  
17 Cole; John McNeill Smith, III; and Eleanor Huske Smith; seven grandchildren; and five  
18 great-grandchildren; Now, therefore,

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

20           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses its appreciation for the life and  
21 accomplishments of John McNeill Smith, Jr., and for the service he rendered the nation, the  
22 State of North Carolina, and his community.

23           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of  
24 John McNeill Smith, Jr., for the loss of a beloved family member.

25           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
26 resolution to the family of John McNeill Smith, Jr.,

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