

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2025

Sponsors: Representatives Holt; R. Hunter, Wisner, and Bowman.

Referred to: Rules.

May 15, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ALBERT
2 COATES.

3 Whereas, Albert Coates was born on August 25, 1896, in Johnston County,
4 was one of nine children born to Daniel Miller and Nancy Lassiter Coates, graduated
5 from the University of North Carolina in 1918, served briefly as a second lieutenant in
6 the United States Army, and graduated from Harvard University with a law degree in
7 1923; and

8 Whereas, Albert Coates returned to Chapel Hill to teach law at the University
9 of North Carolina and, while teaching criminal law, noticed that his casebook consisted
10 primarily of Supreme Court decisions and that these cases constituted less than four-
11 tenths of one per cent of all the criminal cases tried in the State's Courts; and

12 Whereas, Albert Coates started visiting sheriff's and police departments to
13 find out what was taking place in the real world and found that these law enforcement
14 agencies were also desirous of training, thus the idea for creating an Institute of
15 Government was conceived; and

16 Whereas, Albert Coates thought that the Institute of Government should offer
17 training programs for law enforcement officers and a broader program of research
18 training, and consultation for all types of State and local officials; and after a long
19 struggle the Institute of Government became a part of the University of North Carolina
20 in January of 1942; and Albert Coates remained its director until 1962, when he
21 returned to teach law at the University of North Carolina; and

22 Whereas, after his retirement from the University of North Carolina in 1969,
23 Albert Coates was able to devote his time to an earlier idea to provide public school

1 teachers of civics and government with information concerning practical government as
2 opposed to what was being taught in books and with the support of State funds, and so
3 created an Institute of Civic Education in the University's Extension Division which
4 expanded greatly; and by 1980 the State Board of Education responded to these efforts
5 by formally approving The Albert Coates Citizenship Education Program as part of the
6 basic skills instructional program of public schools, to be included in the social studies
7 curriculum; and

8 Whereas, Albert Coates also wrote and published tributes to his colleges, his
9 family, the State Highway Patrol, law enforcement officers, and others; and

10 Whereas, his books include What the University of North Carolina Meant to
11 Me, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: A Magic Gulf Stream in the Life
12 of North Carolina, and Edward Kidder Graham, Harry Woodburn Chase, Frank Porter
13 Graham: Three Men in the Transition of The University of North Carolina at Chapel
14 Hill from a Small College to a Great University; and

15 Whereas, Albert Coates died on January 28, 1989, in his ninety-third year,
16 after an extraordinarily constructive life of public service and will be long remembered
17 as one of North Carolina's most outstanding citizens;

18 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

19 Section 1. The General Assembly wishes to honor the life and memory of
20 Albert Coates and expresses its sympathy to his widow, Gladys Coates, his family, and
21 his friends.

22 Sec. 2. The General Assembly wishes to recognize Albert Coates for his
23 many accomplishments including founding the Institute of Government, inspiring the
24 lives of his law students, and improving the teaching of civics and government in the
25 State's public high schools.

26 Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
27 to the family of Albert Coates and to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

28 Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.