

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 981

Sponsors: Representatives Culpepper; and K. Miller.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House.

April 17, 1995

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF UNDERAGE MILITARY
2 VETERANS WHO DIED SERVING THEIR COUNTRY AND COMMENDING
3 THE VETERANS OF UNDERAGE MILITARY SERVICE, INC.

4 Whereas, throughout history, nations have called upon their youth to fight
5 their wars, and it is inevitable that some young men and women under the age of 17,
6 usually driven by strong patriotism, have enlisted in the armed forces; and

7 Whereas, in some instances, these youths were discovered and separated from
8 service, sometimes after they had already seen action and performed heroically; and

9 Whereas, the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc., was formed in
10 1990, to help these individuals who were frequently discharged from the service and
11 stripped of their awards and their military benefits; and

12 Whereas, the primary goals of the organization are to contact all veterans who
13 served in any branch of the United States Armed Forces when they were under 17 years
14 of age and to advise and assist them in obtaining a proper discharge and their veterans'
15 benefits; and

16 Whereas, a secondary goal is to establish a historical record of underage
17 veterans by publishing their names, their deeds, and their stories; and

18 Whereas, currently the organization consists of over 800 veterans who served
19 in the armed forces before they were 17 years of age; and

20 Whereas, two Medal of Honor winners who enlisted before they were 17
21 years of age have been identified; and

22 Whereas, the youngest combat veteran to be identified since World War I
23 enlisted at the age of 12 and served during World War II; and

1 Whereas, the motto of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc., is "So
2 Young to Grow up So Fast"; and

3 Whereas, many of these young courageous veterans gave their lives
4 defending this country;

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

6 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of those underage
7 military veterans who gave their lives to protect and defend the United States. The
8 General Assembly further commends the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc.,
9 for its attempt to locate and assist all underage veterans of the United States Armed
10 Forces.

11 Sec. 2. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
12 to Jack Hoffler, Commander of the North Carolina Chapter of the Veterans of Underage
13 Military Services, Inc.

14 Sec. 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.