

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 707

Sponsors: Senators Jenkins; Albertson, Allran, Ballance, Ballantine, Basnight, Blust, Carpenter, Carrington, Clark, Cochrane, Conder, Cooper, Dalton, Dannelly, East, Forrester, Foxx, Garwood, Gulley, Hartsell, Horton, Hoyle, Jordan, Kerr, Kincaid, Kinnaird, Ledbetter, Lee, Lucas, Martin of Pitt, Martin of Guilford, McDaniel, Miller, Odom, Page, Perdue, Phillips, Plyler, Rand, Reeves, Rucho, Shaw of Cumberland, Shaw of Guilford, Soles, Warren, Webster, Weinstein, Wellons, and Winner.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

April 7, 1997

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ROYCE
2 PHELPS "BO" THOMAS, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Royce Phelps Thomas, affectionately known as "Bo", was born in
4 Avon Park, Florida, on January 3, 1932, to J.R. Thomas and Eunice Phelps Thomas; and

5 Whereas, Bo Thomas graduated from the Blue Ridge School for Boys in
6 1948, and attended Duke University from 1948 to 1951; and

7 Whereas, Bo Thomas was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the United
8 States Army from 1957 to 1960, and was inducted into the Officer's Candidate School
9 Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia; and

10 Whereas, Bo Thomas bore a great love for Western North Carolina, spending
11 most of his life in Hendersonville and contributing to the area's economy as vice-
12 president and owner of Thomas Produce Company; and

13 Whereas, Bo Thomas showed an outstanding devotion to public service,
14 serving with honor and distinction as a member of the North Carolina Senate from 1979
15 to 1988; and

16 Whereas, during his tenure in the General Assembly, Bo Thomas was
17 tenacious in seeking to improve the welfare of his mountain community, to which he
18 remained loyal; and

1 Whereas, Bo Thomas was a staunch supporter of the Blue Ridge Community
2 College for which he helped to secure funds to plan the college's new Allied Health and
3 Human Services Building and funds for the college's Killian Building, which houses a
4 library, an audiovisual center, a student lounge, a cafeteria, and a bookstore and is used
5 by both the students and the public; and

6 Whereas, Bo Thomas played a large role in securing funding to replace the
7 condemned Henderson County Courthouse with a new structure; and

8 Whereas, having a great respect for the environment, Bo Thomas vigorously
9 pushed for legislation restricting tall structures on mountain ridges, which became an
10 act referred to as the "Ridge Law"; and

11 Whereas, Bo Thomas's love for public service was extended to his activities
12 as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion and as a member of
13 the Hendersonville Lions Club; and

14 Whereas, Bo Thomas served on the National Board of Advisors for the
15 renowned Brevard Music Center; and

16 Whereas, Bo Thomas was active in the Presbyterian Church, having served as
17 a Deacon of the First Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville; and

18 Whereas, Bo Thomas was a man of the people, who said what he thought and
19 believed that direct action was the most effective means to an end; and

20 Whereas, the State of North Carolina suffered a great loss when Bo Thomas
21 died on January 14, 1997; and

22 Whereas, Bo Thomas is survived by his wife, Margaret Stonecipher Thomas;
23 three children, James Royce Thomas, Mary Thomas Vieira, and Richard Latt Thomas;
24 four grandchildren; and several other close relatives and friends; and

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

26 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of Bo Thomas and
27 expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for his life and
28 service to North Carolina.

29 Section 2. The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family
30 of Bo Thomas for the loss of a dear family member.

31 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
32 resolution to the family of Royce Phelps "Bo" Thomas.

33 Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.