

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1485

Sponsors: Representatives Gray, Sexton, Womble, Oldham, Decker, and Esposito.

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

June 7, 1999

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF THOMAS H.
2 DAVIS.

3 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis was born on March 15, 1918, in Winston-Salem,
4 North Carolina, to Egbert L. Davis and Annie Shore Davis; and

5 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis graduated from the University of Arizona; and

6 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis developed a love of flying at an early age and at
7 the age of 16 made his first solo flight in a Taylor E-2 airplane; and

8 Whereas, at the age of 22, Thomas H. Davis became the sales manager for
9 Camel City Flying Service, a distributor of Piper and Stinson aircraft based in Winston-
10 Salem, North Carolina; and

11 Whereas, in 1940, Thomas H. Davis founded Piedmont Aviation and became
12 vice-president, treasurer, principal stockholder, and a director of the company; and

13 Whereas, within a short period of time, Thomas H. Davis established 17
14 dealerships throughout North Carolina; and

15 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis helped Piedmont Aviation, Inc., become the first
16 fully certified Civil Aeronautics Association (CAA) approved aircraft and engine
17 overhaul shop between Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, Georgia; and

18 Whereas, in 1947, Piedmont Aviation branched out with Piedmont Airlines and
19 made its first commercial flight in 1948; and

20 Whereas, under the leadership of Thomas H. Davis, Piedmont Airlines grew
21 into one of the leading carriers in the airline industry; and

1 Whereas, in 1981, Thomas H. Davis was elected as Chairman of the Board and
2 Chief Executive Officer of Piedmont Airlines and served in that capacity until his
3 retirement in 1983; and

4 Whereas, after his retirement, Thomas H. Davis did not give up his passion for
5 flying but continued to fly various aircraft until 1998; and

6 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis was a philanthropist and supporter of many
7 organizations, including the Baptist Hospital, Wake Forest University School of
8 Medicine, Wake Forest University Divinity School, and the American Lung Association
9 of North Carolina, and served as a board member and trustee of Wake Forest University,
10 President of the Winston-Salem Rotary Club, and President of the Greater Winston-
11 Salem Chamber of Commerce; and

12 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis was an active member of the Wake Forest Baptist
13 Church; and

14 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis died on April 22, 1999; and

15 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis' wife of 41 years, Nancy Teague Davis, died in
16 1985; and

17 Whereas, Thomas H. Davis is survived by his children, Thomas H. Davis, Jr.,
18 Winifred Davis Pierce, George Franklin Teague Davis, Nancy Davis McGlothlin, and
19 Juliana Davis West, their spouses, eleven grandchildren, and many other close relatives;
20 and

21 Whereas, the General Assembly wishes to recognize Thomas H. Davis for his
22 accomplishments and extend its sympathy to his family and friends; Now, therefore,
23 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

24 Section 1. The General Assembly expresses high regard for the life and
25 accomplishments of Thomas H. Davis and mourns the loss of one of the State's most
26 gifted, beloved, and respected citizens.

27 Section 2. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
28 resolution to the family of Thomas H. Davis.

29 Section 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.