

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1224

Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Adopted 6/2/98

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 21, 1998

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF J. OLLIE
2 HARRIS, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris was born in Anderson, South Carolina, on September
4 2, 1913, to J. Frank and Jessie Hambright Harris; and

5 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris graduated from Shelby High School in 1931, and the
6 Gupton-Jones College of Embalming in 1935; and

7 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris served in the European Theatre of Operations in
8 World War II as a member of the United States Army and for his bravery and actions
9 above and beyond the call of duty was awarded the Bronze Star; and

10 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris became a funeral director and embalmer and served
11 as President and Treasurer of Harris Funeral Home, Inc.; and

12 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris served his profession proudly as a member of the
13 North Carolina Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors
14 Association, the National Selected Morticians, the North Carolina Coroners
15 Association, and the North Carolina Funeral Directors and Embalming Board; and

16 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris showed an outstanding devotion to public service,
17 having served as a member of numerous civic and fraternal organizations including the
18 Masons and Shriners; and

19 Whereas, winning his first election in 1946, J. Ollie Harris served as
20 Cleveland County's Coroner for 35 years; and

1 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris distinguished himself as a State Senator for 10 terms
2 beginning in 1971, where he was an advocate for the mentally and physically
3 handicapped and served as chair of several committees; and

4 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris was a loyal member of the Democratic Party, having
5 served as Chair of the West Kings Mountain Democratic Party Precinct Organization
6 and as a member of the Cleveland County Democratic Party Executive Committee; and

7 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris was successful in securing funding for the Cleveland
8 County Mental Health Center and was greatly honored by having the building named
9 for him; and

10 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris received numerous awards and honors including the
11 Award of Appreciation and Recognition from the North Carolina Psychological
12 Association in 1985, the Better Life Award from the North Carolina Health Care
13 Facilities in 1979, and the Valand Award from the North Carolina Mental Health
14 Association in 1979, and was named Legislator of the Year by the North Carolina
15 Health Department Association in 1979; and

16 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris was a devoted husband to his wife of 61 years, Abbie
17 Wall Harris, and a devoted father to his son, John O. Harris, Jr. and his daughter, Becky
18 Harris; and

19 Whereas, J. Ollie Harris died on February 9, 1996, and is survived by his
20 daughter, Becky Harris, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

21 Whereas, it is especially fitting that J. Ollie Harris, a man who served his
22 community, State, and country so well and who will be sorely missed should be
23 commemorated at this time; Now, therefore,

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

25 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of J. Ollie Harris and
26 expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for his life and
27 devoted service to his community, State, and country.

28 Section 2. The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family
29 and friends of J. Ollie Harris.

30 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
31 resolution to the family of J. Ollie Harris.

32 Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.