

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 414

Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Adopted 6/16/97

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 18, 1997

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COACH
2 DEAN EDWARDS SMITH AND THE MEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM AT
3 THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL.

4 Whereas, Dean Edwards Smith was a member of the 1952 Kansas University
5 Jayhawks national championship basketball team and a disciple of Kansas Coach Phog
6 Allen; and

7 Whereas, his loyalty to his alma mater, the University of Kansas, so
8 impressed former head coach Frank McGuire that he offered Smith a job as an assistant
9 coach, which Smith accepted, despite UNC's victory over Smith's beloved Jayhawks in
10 the 1957 NCAA men's basketball championship game; and

11 Whereas, Coach Smith's love for the State of North Carolina and the
12 University of North Carolina has continued to grow since his arrival in Chapel Hill in
13 1958; and

14 Whereas, Coach Smith and the UNC men's basketball program have
15 constantly been the source of visionary innovation, perfecting such signature practices
16 as the man-to-man trap defense, the team huddle before a free throw, the "tired" signal,
17 the acknowledgment of a teammate's assist, and the "Four Corners" offense that proved
18 so effective that the institution of the shot clock was the only way to combat it; and

19 Whereas, Coach Smith has established a tradition of excellence in the UNC
20 men's basketball program during his 36 years as head coach, winning more conference
21 games, more regular season titles, more ACC Tournament games, more ACC
22 championships and more NCAA tournament games than any other coach, and has

1 attained 11 Final Four appearances, 14 ACC titles, and two national championships so
2 far; and

3 Whereas, Coach Smith, along with Bill Guthridge, John Thompson, with a
4 nucleus of Tar Heels and players from around the country, guided the United States to a
5 gold medal in basketball in the 1976 Olympic Games; and

6 Whereas, Coach Smith's keen insight into the game and his ability to adapt
7 to changes in the times, the rules, and the nature of the game is vividly demonstrated by
8 his continuing successes in his fourth decade as a coach; and

9 Whereas, on March 15, 1997, Coach Smith became the "all-time winningest
10 coach" in the history of NCAA Division I basketball, coaching the Tar Heels to their
11 877th victory under his leadership; and

12 Whereas, Coach Smith and the UNC men's basketball program have
13 produced nearly 100 professional basketball players, 43 basketball coaches and
14 teachers, and numerous entrepreneurs, professionals, ministers, and other leaders who
15 contribute to their communities throughout the world; and

16 Whereas, Coach Smith and the UNC basketball program have consistently
17 emphasized teamwork, discipline, education and character above athletic success, and
18 have served as ambassadors for the State of North Carolina, training young people, from
19 around the world in the principles of honesty, integrity, and respect; and

20 Whereas, Coach Smith has been revered by former players, team members,
21 and members of the UNC basketball family as a man who seeks the best interest of his
22 students above his own; and

23 Whereas, for 36 years, Coach Smith has taught his players that basketball is
24 secondary to honor, has maintained a model athletic program that is untainted by
25 scandal, has helped his players mature into responsible adults, and has emphasized the
26 importance of education to a life plan; and

27 Whereas, Coach Smith's greatest accomplishments lie not in the number of
28 his victories but in the number of his lettermen who have obtained university degrees; a
29 total of 216 of his 222 lettermen have graduated, many with honors; and

30 Whereas, Coach Smith is a man of character and compassion who was an
31 early advocate for a more equal society, and his commitment to the betterment of all is
32 reflected in his many endeavors to promote education and achievement in all facets of
33 life; and

34 Whereas, Coach Smith is known as the "Dean of Basketball," but those who
35 are aware of his accomplishments consider him the "Dean of Gentlemen," exemplifying
36 the very best North Carolina has to offer; Now, therefore,

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

38 Section 1. The General Assembly recognizes the outstanding achievements
39 of Coach Dean Edwards Smith and the men's basketball program at the University of
40 North Carolina at Chapel Hill, expresses the appreciation and admiration of the people
41 of the State of North Carolina to Dean Edwards Smith for his leadership, integrity, and
42 unparalleled excellence, both on and off the basketball court, and acknowledges the
43 invaluable contribution that the players, coaches, managers, and other members of the

1 UNC basketball family have made to a better world, not only in North Carolina, but
2 across the globe.

3 Section 2. The Secretary of State shall send certified copies of this resolution
4 to Coach Dean Edwards Smith, the Athletic Director, and the Chancellor of the
5 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Chairman of the University of
6 North Carolina at Chapel Hill Board of Trustees.

7 Section 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.