

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 421*

Sponsors: Senators Brown (Primary Sponsor); Alexander, Barefoot, Brock, Clark, Daniel, D. Davis, J. Davis, Gunn, Hise, Lee, Lowe, McInnis, Rabin, Randleman, Robinson, Sanderson, Smith-Ingram, Soucek, Waddell, and Woodard.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 25, 2015

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO THE
2 MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

3 Whereas, the month of May is National Military Appreciation Month and honors,
4 remembers, recognizes, and appreciates all military personnel; those men and women who have
5 served throughout our history, and all who now serve in uniform and their families, as well as
6 those Americans who have given their lives in defense of our freedoms we all enjoy today; and

7 Whereas, North Carolina is the home of six major Department of Defense
8 (DOD)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS) installations: Coast Guard Station, Elizabeth
9 City; Fort Bragg; Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point; Marine Corps Air Station New River;
10 Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, as well as the North
11 Carolina National Guard and other DOD/DHS activities and organizations; and

12 Whereas, nearly 800,000 veterans live in North Carolina and, according to North
13 Carolina Military Business Center's most recent data, North Carolina has the third-highest
14 active duty military presence in the United States, with over 106,400 active duty personnel and
15 close to 12,000 members of the North Carolina National Guard; and

16 Whereas, more than 540,000 individuals are either directly employed by the military
17 or work in jobs providing goods or services that support the military's presence in North
18 Carolina; and

19 Whereas, according to recent estimates, the impact of the military on State personal
20 income was \$30 billion and the impact on gross State product was \$48 billion, which supported
21 about 10% of the economic activity in North Carolina; and

22 Whereas, in 2014, businesses with defense-related contracts operated in 79 of North
23 Carolina's 100 counties and contributed \$2.49 billion in prime defense procurement contracts to
24 the State; and

25 Whereas, the observance of events recognizing the contributions of the military is a
26 tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service
27 members and their families; and

28 Whereas, North Carolina prides itself as being the nation's "Most Military-Friendly
29 State"; and

30 Whereas, veterans, service members, their families, and their communities have
31 shouldered a heavy burden exemplified by repeated combat deployments for their nation; and

32 Whereas, the support of the families of service members enhances the effectiveness
33 and capabilities of the military; and

34 Whereas, North Carolina is committed to supporting and promoting the military
35 within the State; and



1 Whereas, the continued long-term military presence in North Carolina is directly
2 dependent on DOD/DHS's ability to operate not only its installations but also its training and
3 other readiness functions critical to national defense; and

4 Whereas, it is therefore of paramount importance to the future of North Carolina to
5 maintain the best possible relationship with all branches of the United States military and to
6 promote practices that maintain North Carolina's preeminent position as the best location for
7 military bases and training installations; and

8 Whereas, to those ends, it is critical for all North Carolinians, all North Carolina
9 businesses, all sectors of North Carolina's economy, and especially all branches and agencies of
10 North Carolina's State and local governments to be knowledgeable about not only the military's
11 presence and contributions to our State but also of the military's special and unique
12 requirements that are critical to carrying out its national defense mission; and

13 Whereas, North Carolina also seeks to promote the economic development, growth,
14 and expansion of other industries within the State, such as the agriculture/agribusiness industry,
15 the renewable energy industry, the tourism/outdoor recreation industry, and the fisheries
16 industry; and

17 Whereas, North Carolina has a vested economic interest in the preservation and
18 enhancement of land uses that are compatible with military activities; Now, therefore,

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

20 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses its profound gratitude and
21 appreciation to all the men and women of the United States military for their selfless service
22 and pays tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

23 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.