

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 720

Sponsors: Senators Rabin (Primary Sponsor); and Sanderson.

Referred to:

August 18, 2015

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

2 Whereas, World War II was a global conflict involving more than 30 countries
3 which lasted from 1939 to 1945, with major battles across Europe, the Pacific Ocean, and the
4 Middle East; and

5 Whereas, in 1941, the United States of America, seeking peaceful solutions to issues
6 vital to U.S. national security interests, was engaged in diplomatic negotiations with envoys of
7 the Empire of Japan to resolve these issues; and

8 Whereas, on Sunday, December 7, 1941, while these negotiations were in progress,
9 military forces of the Empire of Japan executed a surprise attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, then
10 a Territory of the United States; and

11 Whereas, most of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was at anchor at Pearl Harbor on that day
12 and was the main target of that surprise attack, within less than two hours Japanese warplanes
13 sank or damaged eight battleships (including the USS Arizona), three light cruisers, three
14 destroyers, and four other naval vessels, destroyed over 130 aircraft, and killed more than 2,400
15 Americans; and

16 Whereas, this act of aggression prompted President Franklin D. Roosevelt to
17 address the U.S. Congress on December 8, 1941, to ask for a declaration of war and opened his
18 remarks with these historic words: "Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in
19 infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air
20 forces of the Empire of Japan"; and

21 Whereas, on December 11, 1941, in support of Japan's aggression, Nazi Germany
22 also declared war on the U.S.; and

23 Whereas, because of Japan's "unprovoked and dastardly attack" on a U.S. Territory
24 and U.S. Forces and Nazi Germany's declaration of war, the United States of America was
25 entered into World War II; and

26 Whereas, more than 16 million courageous Americans of the "greatest generation"
27 served with honor, distinction, and patriotism, fighting in every theater of operation during that
28 war for the freedoms we enjoy today and playing a critical role in decisive battles around the
29 world, with more than 405,000 making the supreme sacrifice; and

30 Whereas, over 360,000 North Carolinians served in that War, of which more than
31 6,300 were killed; and

32 Whereas, on May 7, 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally to the U.S.,
33 marking that date V-E Day, leaving its ally, The Empire of Japan, to stand alone against the
34 U.S. and its allies in the Pacific Theater; and



1 Whereas, on August 6, 1945, an American B-29 "Flying Fortress" named "Enola
2 Gay" with North Carolina native, Colonel (Retired) Thomas W. Ferebee, a veteran of 60
3 bombing missions in the European Theater, serving as the lead bombardier, dropped the world's
4 first atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, which was followed by a second atomic
5 bomb mission on Nagasaki, Japan, three days later; and

6 Whereas, on August 14, 1945, due largely to the effects of those atomic weapons,
7 the Japanese government accepted the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration and agreed to an
8 unconditional surrender marking that day as V-J Day, bringing an end to hostilities in the
9 Pacific, thus ending World War II and saving an estimated one million or more U.S. casualties
10 had the war continued and the allies been forced to invade Japan's home islands; and

11 Whereas, 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the surrender of the Empire of Japan
12 and the end of World War II; and

13 Whereas, with less than one million World War II veterans alive today in the United
14 States, we must take the time to honor and remember and thank the men and women of "the
15 greatest generation," who valiantly and with great honor defended our great Nation's freedoms
16 against the forces of darkness and evil who would surely have denied us those freedoms; Now,
17 therefore,

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

19 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to express its deepest and most
20 heartfelt appreciation to the veterans of World War II and their families for their remarkable
21 contributions and service to the people of North Carolina, the United States of America, and the
22 free world. They held high the torch of freedom and we should be ever mindful that the task of
23 preserving that fragile freedom is now ours.

24 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly wishes to honor the life and memory of those
25 who died while serving during World War II.

26 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.