

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 311*

Sponsors: Senators Martin of Pitt and Taft.

Referred to: Rules.

February 28, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DR. LEO
2 WARREN JENKINS, FORMER CHANCELLOR OF EAST CAROLINA
3 UNIVERSITY.

4 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins was born on May 28, 1913, in Succasunna,
5 New Jersey and was raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey; and

6 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins received a B.S. degree in Education from
7 Rutgers University, a masters degree from Columbia University, and a doctorate degree
8 from New York University; and

9 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins served his country in the United States Marine
10 Corps during World War II and for his heroism was awarded the Bronze Star and two
11 Presidential Unit Citations; and

12 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins began a career in education by teaching in the
13 public schools of New Jersey and at Montclair Teachers College, and as Assistant to the
14 Commissioner for Higher Education of the New Jersey State Department of Education;
15 and

16 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins came to North Carolina in 1947, where he
17 became Dean of East Carolina Teachers College and maintained that position until
18 1960; and

19 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins was President of East Carolina College from
20 1960 until 1967, President of East Carolina University from 1967 until 1972, and
21 Chancellor of East Carolina University from 1972 until his retirement in 1978 because
22 of mandatory retirement at age 65; and

1 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins worked tirelessly in transforming East Carolina
2 Teachers College into East Carolina University, as shown by his role in establishing
3 several professional schools, gaining a medical school, attaining University status and
4 becoming part of the University of North Carolina system; and

5 Whereas, during Leo Warren Jenkins' 31 years at ECU, the growth of the
6 University can be shown by the increase in its student enrollment and faculty, by the
7 increase in the number of its academic programs and by the establishment of the
8 Regional Development Institute; and

9 Whereas, while Leo Warren Jenkins can best be remembered for his
10 accomplishments at ECU, he can also be remembered for the pride he instilled in the
11 people of Eastern North Carolina and can best be summed up by Jim Shumaker, former
12 Durham Morning Herald managing editor and UNC Journalism Instructor who said,
13 "He is one of the greatest things that ever happened to Eastern North Carolina. He gave
14 Eastern North Carolina a whole new attitude about themselves and their region. He must
15 have spoken to every civic club east of Raleigh at least twice, telling these people how
16 great they were and how great their region was. What he did was as much a lifting of
17 their spirit as of their economy."; and

18 Whereas, after Leo Warren Jenkins' retirement, he was appointed by former
19 Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., as a special assistant for Economic Development from
20 1978 until 1984; and

21 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins was committed to several organizations and
22 served in many capacities, including Chairman of the Board of Directors of the
23 Wachovia Bank and Trust in Greenville, Chairman of the North Carolina Council of
24 State Universities, Member of the Legislative Study Commission on Student Financial
25 Aid, Member of the National Commission on Higher Education Accrediting; Director of
26 the Triangle Chapter of the National Football Hall of Fame, Member of the Board of the
27 North Carolina Symphony Society, Member of the Council on Postsecondary
28 Education, and Delegate to the White House Conference on Education; and

29 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins was honored as Citizen of the Year and
30 awarded the Golden Deeds Award by the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, and
31 received the North Carolina Public Service Award in 1977; and

32 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins received two honorary degrees, Doctor of
33 Humanities from ECU and Doctor of Human Letters from Campbell University; and

34 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins died on January 14, 1989; and

35 Whereas, Leo Warren Jenkins leaves to mourn, his wife, Nancy Murray
36 Jenkins; his children, Dr. James J. Jenkins of St. Louis, Missouri; Jack W. Jenkins of
37 Morehead City, North Carolina; Jeffrey D. Jenkins of Washington, North Carolina;
38 Patricia Hogan, of Greenville, North Carolina; Dr. Sallie Person of Werzburg, West
39 Germany; and Suzanne Lodge of Buffalo, New York; his eleven grandchildren and a
40 host of other family and friends;

41 Whereas, it is only fitting for the General Assembly to honor Leo Warren
42 Jenkins;

43 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

1 Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina wishes to honor the life
2 and memory of Leo Warren Jenkins for his contributions to East Carolina University
3 and in the field of education, for the pride he instilled in the citizens of Eastern North
4 Carolina and for his distinguished leadership.

5 Sec. 2. The General Assembly of North Carolina wishes to express its
6 sympathy to the family of Leo Warren Jenkins for his loss.

7 Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
8 to the family of Leo Warren Jenkins.

9 Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.