

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 266*

Sponsors: Representatives Lilley, Anderson, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Rules Suspended; Passed 2nd & 3rd; Sent to Senate.

March 18, 1991

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICES OF THOMAS
2 JACKSON WHITE, JR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, there have been those among us, says the writer of the Book of
4 Ecclesiasticus, "who have left a name behind them, that their praises might be
5 reported."Such a man was Thomas Jackson White, Jr.; and

6 Whereas, Thomas Jackson White, Jr. was born in Cabarrus County on March
7 6, 1903, and was educated at North Carolina State College of Agriculture and
8 Engineering and the Law School of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and

9 Whereas, as an attorney-at-law, Thomas Jackson White, Jr. developed and
10 maintained through six decades a successful civil and criminal practice in the State and
11 federal courts of eastern North Carolina; and

12 Whereas, Thomas Jackson White, Jr. was elected an officer of local and State
13 bar organizations and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers; and

14 Whereas, for a quarter of a century, Thomas Jackson White, Jr. served his
15 adopted county of Lenoir as County Attorney; and

16 Whereas, Thomas Jackson White, Jr., a life-long sportsman, strove to secure
17 for the public the pleasures of field and stream that so delighted him, and to that end he
18 led in the creation by the 1947 General Assembly of the North Carolina Wildlife
19 Resources Commission, of which he served as a member and first Chairman; and

20 Whereas, it was in the legislative arena, where Thomas Jackson White, Jr.
21 served as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1952 to 1958
22 and of the North Carolina Senate from 1960 to 1968, that he attained statewide
23 recognition and his most rewarding opportunities for public leadership; and

1 Whereas, to every legislative task he undertook, Thomas Jackson White, Jr.
2 brought the studious habits of a lifetime and the skills of an able advocate that made him
3 a stalwart friend or formidable foe; and

4 Whereas, Thomas Jackson White, Jr. knew and relished the uses of power,
5 fairly exercised, in the service of causes that claimed his dedication; and

6 Whereas, in the vital realm of state finance, Thomas Jackson White, Jr.
7 performed most constructively as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in the
8 1961 Session, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in the 1963, 1965,
9 and 1967 Sessions, as a member of the Advisory Budget Commission in the 1961
10 Session, and as Chairman of the Advisory Budget Commission in the 1963, 1965, 1967,
11 1969, and 1971 Sessions; and

12 Whereas, legislative and legal skills caused Thomas Jackson White, Jr.'s
13 services to be called into requisition often by the Governor, who asked him to serve on
14 State study commissions, including those dealing with the reorganization of State
15 government and the restructuring of higher education; and

16 Whereas, for many years after his retirement from the General Assembly,
17 Thomas Jackson White, Jr. continued to be a familiar presence in the State Legislative
18 Building as an effective lobbyist; and

19 Whereas, as a devoted alumnus of two of the constituent institutions of The
20 University of North Carolina, Thomas Jackson White, Jr. served the University as a
21 member of the former Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina from 1965
22 to 1971 and its Executive Committee from 1967 to 1971 and as a member of the Board
23 of Governors of The University of North Carolina and its preparatory Planning
24 Committee from 1971 to 1977, when he played a major part in the organization and
25 initiation of the University in its present form; and

26 Whereas, Thomas Jackson White, Jr.'s most enduring monuments are the
27 State Legislative Building and the North Carolina Museum of Art Building; and

28 Whereas, his experience as a member of the House of Representatives of
29 1953, 1955, and 1957 convinced Thomas Jackson White, Jr. that the historic State
30 Capitol of North Carolina was no longer adequate to meet the space needs of a modern
31 legislature; and

32 Whereas, Thomas Jackson White, Jr. did not seek reelection in 1958, and
33 instead spent the legislative session of 1959 successfully advocating among his former
34 colleagues the cause of a new building for the General Assembly and, as a result of his
35 efforts, the initial appropriation for the State Legislative Building was made in 1959;
36 and

37 Whereas, from 1959 until completion of that building, Thomas Jackson
38 White, Jr. made it his concern as Chairman of the State Legislative Building
39 Commission to see that the State got a first-class building to accommodate the General
40 Assembly adequately; and

41 Whereas, while it is probable that the General Assembly would in time have
42 concluded on its own that new facilities for its use were necessary, the fact that those
43 facilities were provided in time for use by the General Assembly of 1963 and that they

1 were so well suited to their purpose can be credited to the zeal and effectiveness with
2 which Thomas Jackson White, Jr. pursued that objective; and

3 Whereas, when the General Assembly determined in 1967 to erect a new
4 structure for the North Carolina Museum of Art, Governor Dan K. Moore wisely turned
5 to Thomas Jackson White, Jr. to chair the Museum of Art Building Commission; and

6 Whereas, from the beginning to the completion of that project in 1983,
7 Thomas Jackson White, Jr. pursued with his usual thoroughness and determination the
8 tasks of public and private fund-raising and location and design of the Art Museum
9 Building; and

10 Whereas, generations of North Carolinians who will never know his name
11 will benefit from these two constructive legacies by Thomas Jackson White, Jr. to his
12 fellow citizens; and

13 Whereas, to his several fraternal organizations and to the Episcopal Church,
14 Thomas Jackson White, Jr. gave loyal support; and

15 Whereas, as a proud and steadfast Democrat all his life, Thomas Jackson
16 White, Jr. served his party faithfully and effectively in all weathers; and

17 Whereas, Thomas Jackson White, Jr., citizen of North Carolina, died on
18 February 5, 1991, bringing to an end his long and constructive life; and

19 Whereas, Thomas Jackson White, Jr. is survived by his wife, Virginia
20 Edwards White, and four children, Thomas Jackson White III, Isabell White Davis,
21 Virginia Turley Paulsen, and Sarah Ellen White Archie; and

22 Whereas, it is the desire of the General Assembly to take note of Thomas
23 Jackson White, Jr.'s achievements and pay tribute to his life and services;

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

25 Section 1. The General Assembly recognizes Thomas Jackson White, Jr. for
26 public services as legislator, civic leader, builder of public monuments, and citizen, for
27 his qualities of diligence and devotion in the service of the public, for his love of the
28 State of North Carolina and his readiness to serve its citizens, and for his inestimable
29 qualities as an individual and a friend, the General Assembly of North Carolina records
30 its recognition and profound thanks.

31 Sec. 2. The General Assembly expresses its deepest sympathy to the family
32 of Thomas Jackson White, Jr. for the loss of this distinguished citizen.

33 Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit certified copies of this resolution
34 to the widow and children of Thomas Jackson White, Jr.

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