

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1463

Sponsors: Representative Barefoot.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House.

May 5, 1999

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DAVID
2 CLARK, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY.

4 Whereas, David Clark was born on July 4, 1922, in Lincolnton, North
5 Carolina, to Thorne McKenzie Clark and Mabel Gossett Clark; and

6 Whereas, David Clark descended from a family that had distinguished itself in
7 State and national affairs: his father, Thorne McKenzie Clark, served as a member of the
8 North Carolina General Assembly in 1937-1938; his grandfather, Judge Walter Clark,
9 served as Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court; his great-grandfather,
10 William Alexander Graham, served as Governor of North Carolina, United States
11 Senator, Secretary of the United States Navy, and was the nominee of the Whig Party for
12 Vice President of the United States in 1852; and his great-great-grandfather, General
13 Joseph Graham, was a hero of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812; and

14 Whereas, David Clark served as a first lieutenant in the United States Army
15 Air Force from 1943 to 1946, seeing action in the Pacific as a bomber pilot, and was
16 awarded a Pacific Theater of Operations Decorated Air Medal; and

17 Whereas, David Clark graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1947
18 and from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1950; and

19 Whereas, David Clark maintained a successful law practice in Lincolnton from
20 1950 until his death in 1997; and

21 Whereas, David Clark was deeply interested and involved in the political
22 affairs of North Carolina throughout his life, serving with distinction in the North

1 Carolina House of Representatives from 1951 to 1957 and in the North Carolina Senate
2 in 1963; and

3 Whereas, David Clark was appointed by Governors Umstead and Hodges to
4 chair the State Government Reorganization Commission from 1955 to 1957, from which
5 came many measures and initiatives that improved and modernized State government;
6 and

7 Whereas, David Clark narrowly missed election to the United States House of
8 Representatives on two occasions when he ran spirited campaigns against Charles Raper
9 Jonas; and

10 Whereas, David Clark devoted much of his professional life to the economic
11 growth and development of his native State and the southeast: he was one of the
12 visionaries whose dream became reality in the Research Triangle Park; he was a
13 successful and innovative real estate developer in varied projects that ranged from major
14 condominium and apartment complexes in Washington, D.C., and Maryland to the first
15 shopping center in Lincoln County to large commercial egg production facilities in
16 Georgia, North Carolina, and Minnesota, to a 104-room motel in Florida to a 2,000-acre
17 cattle farm in Lincoln County. He was a tireless recruiter of industry to North Carolina;
18 and

19 Whereas, David Clark saw the value and economy of air transportation of
20 goods and materials, and to that end, he created several commercial aviation companies
21 including Mountain Air Cargo, Inc., the very first tenant in the State's Global TransPark;
22 and

23 Whereas, David Clark was a valuable and dedicated business leader in North
24 Carolina and served as a board member of many companies including Cameron Brown
25 Investment Group, Burriss Industries, Washburn Graphics, Carolina First National Bank,
26 and Lincoln County Broadcasting, Inc., (the first radio station in Lincoln County); and

27 Whereas, David Clark was a volunteer in many civic, cultural, and charitable
28 causes, some of which included the Crossnore School, the American Red Cross, the
29 American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Masons, and Rotary International;
30 and

31 Whereas, David Clark was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church of
32 Lincolnton where he served as an officer and Sunday School teacher; and

33 Whereas, David Clark died on April 18, 1997; and

34 Whereas, David Clark was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, the former
35 Kathryn King Goode, who predeceased him; a loving father to his four children, David,
36 Jr., Allison, Walter, and Caroline; and a doting grandfather to his grandchildren; and

37 Whereas, David Clark will be remembered for his many contributions to the
38 State of North Carolina; and

39 Whereas, the General Assembly wishes to show its appreciation for his life and
40 accomplishments and extend its sincere sympathy to his family; Now, therefore,
41 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

1 Section 1. The General Assembly expresses high esteem and regard for the
2 extraordinary life and service of David Clark and mourns the loss of one of North
3 Carolina's distinguished native sons.

4 Section 2. The General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the family
5 of David Clark for the loss of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

6 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
7 resolution to the family of David Clark.

8 Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.