

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1987 SESSION
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 29
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 313

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MICHAEL SMITH, ONE OF THE CHALLENGER ASTRONAUTS.

Whereas, Michael Smith grew up on a 14 acre farm outside Beaufort, North Carolina; and

Whereas, Michael Smith always loved flying, earning his private pilot license and soloing for the first time on his 16th birthday; and

Whereas, Michael Smith to further a desire to be an astronaut, a desire that started in 1961 while observing the first manned space flights, attended the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis where he was voted Most Outstanding Senior by his classmates; and

Whereas, Michael Smith served his country as a pilot during the Viet Nam War where he flew 225 combat missions and won numerous medals; and

Whereas, after becoming a pilot-instructor he was chosen in 1980 to fulfill his dream and become an astronaut; and

Whereas, he was the pilot of the space shuttle Challenger when it tragically exploded on Tuesday, January 28, 1986, killing him and six other brave astronauts; and

Whereas, Michael Smith is survived by his wife, Jane Jarrell Smith, and three children, Erin Kennedy Smith, Alison Taylor Smith, and Michael Scott Smith, and by two brothers Pat Smith and Tony Smith both of Beaufort, and by a sister Ellen Leonard of Cary; and

Whereas, this son of Carteret County and of all of North Carolina brought much glory to his home town, his State and to his country before his sudden and tragic death watched by millions of people brought much deep sorrow and shock to people around the world while teaching all of us earthbound people much about courage and bravery;

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

Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina expresses its deep appreciation for the life, the accomplishments, and the courage of Michael Smith and for the great service he rendered to his country.

Sec. 2. The General Assembly of North Carolina extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Michael Smith for the great loss they have suffered.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the family of Michael Smith.

Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 12th day of June, 1987.

Robert B. Jordan III
President of the Senate

Liston B. Ramsey
Speaker of the House of Representatives