

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1322

Sponsors: Senators Plyler, Conder; Johnson of Cabarrus, Odom, Richardson, and Staton.

Referred to: Rules.

June 27, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOHN
2 RAYMOND SHUTE, JR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4 Whereas, John Raymond Shute, Jr., was born January 14, 1904, in Monroe,
5 the only son of John Raymond Shute, Sr., and Kittie Summerset; and

6 Whereas, John Raymond Shute, Jr., was affectionately known as "J. Ray" all
7 his life; and

8 Whereas, J. Ray Shute was educated in the Monroe public schools, graduated
9 from the Georgia Military Academy in 1921, where he was 1st Lieutenant in the
10 R.O.T.C. from 1920 until 1921, attended Trinity College in Durham from 1921 to 1924,
11 and received a master's degree from Atlantic University; and

12 Whereas, J. Ray Shute married Sarah Mason of Durham in 1924 and from
13 that union three children were born: John Raymond Shute III, Sarah Mason Shute
14 Sommers and Joseph Kirkland Shute; and

15 Whereas, J. Ray Shute was a businessman and served in the capacities of
16 president, chairman of the board, member of the board of directors, partner, and
17 business manager of many businesses including the J.R. Shute Company, Shute Motors,
18 Inc., United Airways of North Carolina, Monroe Investment, Inc., Union Aircraft Corp.,
19 Union Broadcasting Station, Union Laundry Service, Shute-Wilson Gin Company,
20 Ellen Fitzgerald Hospital, Finance Corporation of America, Background Sound
21 Systems, Inc., the Southern Regional Council, and the Monroe Full Fashion Hosiery
22 Mill; and

1 Whereas, as a community leader, J. Ray Shute served Monroe as president of
2 the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, the Monroe Board of Trade, the Monroe Board of
3 Realtors, the Monroe Lion's Club, the Monroe Executive Club, the Duke Alumni
4 Association, and the Council on Human Relations; and

5 Whereas, J. Ray Shute served as mayor of Monroe for two terms, as president
6 of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and as State Director of the Federal
7 Office of Price Stabilization; and

8 Whereas, J. Ray Shute worked to secure new industries for Union County and
9 served as the first chairman of the Union County Industrial Development Commission;
10 and

11 Whereas, J. Ray Shute worked towards the betterment of Union County and
12 served the county in many capacities, including the first chairman of the Union County
13 Library Board, chairman of the Union County Board of Education, and chairman of the
14 Board of County Commissioners; and

15 Whereas, J. Ray Shute was also active as chairman of the Union County
16 Chapter of the American Red Cross, as a member of the Parks and Recreation
17 Commission, as a Star and Life Scout, as District Scout Commissioner, as a member of
18 the Kiwanis Club, as a member of the Rotary Club, as chairman of the Board of
19 Trustees of Union Memorial Hospital, and as a member of the Union County Board of
20 Health; and

21 Whereas, J. Ray Shute served with distinction in the State Senate in 1935,
22 where he was chairman of the State Library Committee that created the statewide
23 library system; and

24 Whereas, J. Ray Shute was an editor, lecturer, and author of twenty published
25 books; and

26 Whereas, J. Ray Shute was a member of the Board of Stewards of the Central
27 Methodist Church, taught bible classes, sang in the choir, and served as District Lay
28 Leader; and

29 Whereas, J. Ray Shute founded the Charlotte Unitarian Church and was Dean
30 of All Souls Chapel in Monroe; and

31 Whereas, J. Ray Shute served as president of the Unitarian Layman League,
32 as president of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, as president of the
33 Colloquium on the Nature of Man, as a delegate to the International Humanist
34 Association in Amsterdam in 1952, as a delegate to the International Association for
35 Religious Freedom at Oxford University in England; and

36 Whereas, J. Ray Shute established Unitarian Fellowships throughout the
37 United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

38 Whereas, J. Ray Shute was a Mason, who served as head of all local Masonic
39 organizations, and was a mason in several states and national and international
40 organizations, and was honored by many; and

41 Whereas, as an amateur anthropologist, J. Ray Shute, along with his wife,
42 visited 125 countries and islands, living with primitive tribes in such places as the Gobi
43 Desert, Outer Mongolia, the Amazon Jungle, and Timbuktu; and

1 Whereas, J. Ray Shute worked to enhance the lives of those in his
2 community, county, and State by securing industries, better education, hospitals, and
3 other needed services; and

4 Whereas, the memory of J. Ray Shute will always be remembered by his
5 loved ones and friends;

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

7 Section 1. The General Assembly wishes to honor the life and memory of
8 John Raymond "J. Ray" Shute, Jr., for his outstanding service to his community, Union
9 County, the State of North Carolina, and his fellow citizens.

10 Sec. 2. The General Assembly wishes to express its sympathy to the family
11 and friends of John Raymond "J. Ray" Shute, Jr.

12 Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
13 to the family of John Raymond "J. Ray" Shute, Jr.

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