

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 2009-20
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1103

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JESSE HELMS.

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., was born in Monroe, North Carolina, on October 18, 1921, the son of Jesse Alexander Helms and Ethel Helms; and

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., graduated from Monroe High School and studied at both Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina, and Wake Forest College, then in Wake Forest, North Carolina, where he was known for his personal industry in supporting himself while preparing for a career in journalism; and

Whereas, from his earliest years, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., devoted himself to the highest standards of journalism, earning at age 20 an award for enterprise journalism from the North Carolina Press Association for his courageous report exposing an abuse of power; and

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., set aside his career and volunteered for the United States Navy following the attack on Pearl Harbor and, while repeatedly requesting duty on a warship despite his hearing loss, served with excellence in the Navy Recruiting Command in both North Carolina and Georgia; and

Whereas, he continued to work as a journalist whenever this work did not conflict with Navy duties and resumed his full-time career in communications following active duty in 1945, becoming the city editor of *The Raleigh Times*, and later, Director of News and Programs for the Tobacco Radio Network and Radio Station WRAL, in Raleigh; and

Whereas, in 1953 he became the Executive Director of the North Carolina Bankers' Association and editor of the *Tarheel Banker*, which became the largest state banking publication in America under his stewardship; and

Whereas, in 1960, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., became Executive Vice President, Vice Chairman of the Board, and assistant Chief Executive Officer of Capitol Broadcasting Company, Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was a part of a groundbreaking change in the role of television stations by leading the creation of an editorial board for which he wrote and presented daily editorials on WRAL-TV and the 70 station strong Tobacco Radio Network. His work also was printed regularly in more than 200 newspapers throughout the United States, twice earning national awards from the Freedom Foundation; and

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., served his community and his State as a member of the Raleigh City Council for four years and as Chairman of the Council's Law and Finance Committee, director of the North Carolina Cerebral Palsy Hospital in Durham, United Cerebral Palsy of North Carolina, and Wake County Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Center in Raleigh, a founder and a director of Camp Willow Run at Littleton, North Carolina, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Meredith College, Campbell University, and Wingate University; and

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., was elected by a majority of our citizens to serve the State of North Carolina as United States Senator in 1972, 1978, 1984, 1990, and 1996 and represented our State with honor for thirty years before retiring in 2003, setting the U.S. Capitol standard for constituent services with his dedication to doing all he could to ensure that the government properly served the people, earning the respect of leaders around the nation and around the world for his unyielding commitment to integrity and the principles of faith, freedom, and the power of free enterprise that he championed throughout his life, and personally taking time to visit with more than 100,000 North Carolina students who toured the U.S. Capitol during his time of service; and

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., allowed the formation of the Jesse Helms Center in Wingate, North Carolina, after he was assured that its purpose would be to promote those principles in which he believed and to serve as a resource for the education of young



people and their teachers, and greatly benefited all of our citizens through his personal invitations to world leaders, Nobel laureates, corporate CEOs and senior government officials to come and speak to students and citizens who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to hear their insights; and

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., is recognized as a leading historical figure of our times, a leader in the modern conservative movement, a mentor to a generation of men and women who have been inspired to follow his model of service, a favorite son of "Sweet Union" North Carolina, and the recipient of scores of state, national, and international honors for his record of accomplishments; and

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., found his greatest support and encouragement from his best friend and wife of more than 65 years, Dorothy Jane Coble, their three children, Jane Knox, Nancy Grigg, and Charles Helms, and their seven grandchildren, Rob Knox, Jennifer Knox, Mike Stuart, Ellen Gaddy, Katie Stuart, Amelia Helms, and Julie Helms; and

Whereas, Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., has been remembered by the people of North Carolina, the United States, and in democracy-loving nations around the world, some of whom have said:

"Throughout his long public career, Senator Jesse Helms was a tireless advocate for the people of North Carolina, a stalwart defender of limited government and free enterprise, a fearless defender of a culture of life, and an unwavering champion of those struggling for liberty. Under his leadership, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was a powerful force for freedom. And today, from Central America to Central Europe and beyond, people remember, in the dark days when the forces of tyranny seemed on the rise, Jesse Helms took their side." President George W. Bush

"Jesse Helms, my friend and long-time senator from my home state of North Carolina, was a man of consistent conviction to conservative ideals and courage to faithfully serve God and country based on principle, not popularity or politics." Billy Graham

"Senator Helms dedicated his life to serving the people of North Carolina. Whether people agreed or disagreed with him, Senator Helms would always let his constituents know where he stood on the important issues of the day." U.S. Representative Bob Etheridge

"Throughout his illustrious life, Senator Helms exemplified integrity, courage, and statesmanship. Senator Helms contributed a great deal to the close and mutually beneficial relations between my country and the United States. We will always remember him with gratitude." Liu Chao-Shiuan, Premier, Republic of China; and

Whereas, North Carolinians mourn the death of this dedicated public servant who was known and respected for his love of his home State and his nation; Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

SECTION 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina expresses its appreciation for the life and public service of Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., and honors his memory.

SECTION 2. The General Assembly of North Carolina extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., for the loss of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the family of Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr.

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 10th day of June,
2009.

Walter H. Dalton
President of the Senate

Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives