

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2015

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 1150

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

June 16, 2016

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MUHAMMAD ALI.

2 Whereas, Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., was born on January 17, 1942, in Louisville,
3 Kentucky, to Cassius Clay, Sr., and Odessa Clay; and

4 Whereas, at the age of 12, Cassius Clay, Jr., began boxing after being encouraged to do
5 so by Joe Martin, a police officer and boxing coach; and

6 Whereas, as an amateur, Cassius Clay, Jr., amassed an impressive record, which
7 included six state Golden Gloves titles, two national light heavyweight titles, and the light
8 heavyweight gold medal during the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome; and

9 Whereas, on February 25, 1964, Cassius Clay, Jr., defeated Sonny Liston to become
10 the world heavyweight champion; and

11 Whereas, in March 1964, Cassius Clay, Jr., joined the Nation of Islam and changed his
12 name to Muhammad Ali; and

13 Whereas, on April 28, 1967, Muhammad Ali was stripped of his boxing title and barred
14 from competing after he declared conscientious objector status to the Vietnam War on religious
15 and moral grounds; and

16 Whereas, in 1971, the United States Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision,
17 confirmed Muhammad Ali's conscientious objector status, which allowed his boxing license to be
18 reinstated and cleared him of any wrongdoing; and

19 Whereas, Muhammad Ali went on to win two more world heavyweight titles,
20 becoming the first professional boxer in history to capture the heavyweight title three separate
21 times; and

22 Whereas, Muhammad Ali retired from professional boxing in 1981 with a professional
23 record of 56-5, including 37 knockouts; and

24 Whereas, Muhammad Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease around 1984 but,
25 despite his illness, continued to dedicate his life to civil rights, humanitarian causes, and world
26 peace; and

27 Whereas, during the 1980s, President Jimmy Carter asked Muhammad Ali to meet with
28 African leaders in Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal as part of the President's
29 diplomatic efforts on behalf of human rights; and

30 Whereas, in 1990, Muhammad Ali traveled to the Middle East to seek the release of
31 American and British hostages that were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War,
32 resulting in the release of 15 American hostages; and

33 Whereas, in 1996, Muhammad Ali was chosen to light the Olympic flame at the 24th
34 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia; and

35 Whereas, in 1998, Muhammad Ali served as the "U.N. Messenger of Peace"; and



1 Whereas, Muhammad Ali supported many organizations, including the Make-A-Wish
2 Foundation; the Special Olympics' organization, Best Buddies; and Herbert E. Birch Services, an
3 organization that runs a school for handicapped children and young adults and a summer camp for
4 children with AIDS; and

5 Whereas, Muhammad Ali and his wife, Lonnie, founded the Muhammad Ali Parkinson
6 Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and helped to raise millions of dollars for Parkinson's research; and

7 Whereas, Muhammad Ali also helped to establish the Muhammad Ali Center in his
8 hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, to preserve and share his legacy and ideals, to promote
9 respect, hope, and understanding, and to inspire adults and children everywhere to be as great as
10 they can be; and

11 Whereas, while he was physically able, Muhammad Ali traveled extensively for
12 humanitarian causes and helped to provide over 22,000,000 aid packets to assist those in need
13 around the world; and

14 Whereas, some of Muhammad Ali's awards and honors include: the Dr. Martin Luther
15 King Memorial Award; the Spirit of America Award; the Amnesty International Lifetime
16 Achievement Award; the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage; the Essence Living Legend Award;
17 several honorary degrees; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which was presented to him by
18 President George W. Bush in 2005; and

19 Whereas, in 2005, Muhammad Ali also received the prestigious "Otto Hahn Peace
20 Medal in Gold" from the United Nations Association of Germany for his civil rights work and his
21 work with the United Nations; and

22 Whereas, Muhammad Ali was named "Sportsman of the Century" by Sports Illustrated
23 magazine; "Athlete of the Century" by GQ magazine; "Sports Personality of the Century" by the
24 British Broadcasting Corporation; and "Boxer of the Century" by the World Sports Awards of the
25 Century; and

26 Whereas, in 1990, Muhammad Ali was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of
27 Fame; and

28 Whereas, Muhammad Ali died on June 3, 2016, at the age of 74; and

29 Whereas, Muhammad Ali is survived by wife, Yolanda "Lonnie" Ali, nine children,
30 and a number of grandchildren; and

31 Whereas, Muhammad Ali was one of the most beloved athletes and personalities the
32 world has ever known, and he was simply the "Greatest of All Time (GOAT)" to his millions of
33 admirers and fans; Now, therefore,

34 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

35 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Muhammad Ali,
36 former world heavyweight champion boxer, civil rights activist, and advocate for Parkinson's
37 research, and expresses its appreciation for his life and service to others.

38 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives extends its deepest sympathy to the
39 family of Muhammad Ali for the loss of a beloved family member.

40 **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to
41 the family of Muhammad Ali.

42 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.