

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1324*

Sponsors: Representatives Gray, Decker, Esposito, Oldham, Sexton, and Womble.

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

May 19, 1998

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ARCHIBALD
2 KIMBROUGH DAVIS, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Archibald Kimbrough Davis was born in Winston-Salem on
4 January 22, 1911, to Dr. Thomas Whitmell Davis and Frances Conrad Davis; and

5 Whereas, Archie Davis graduated from Woodberry Forest School in 1929,
6 and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1932, and thereafter began a
7 career in banking with Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Winston-Salem, his
8 hometown, eventually rising by 1955 to the position of Chairman of the Board, which
9 position he held until his retirement in 1974; and

10 Whereas, Archie Davis throughout his life retained the love of history and
11 scholarship acquired during his youth and, upon his retirement as Chairman of the
12 Board of Wachovia Bank, then the largest bank in the Southeast, he promptly reenrolled
13 as a student at his beloved Chapel Hill and remained a registered student there until his
14 death; and

15 Whereas, after he was awarded a master of arts degree from the university at
16 the age of 64, he continued his studies, concentrating on his fascination with the War
17 Between the States and especially the role of North Carolina in that conflict. His
18 doctoral dissertation, a biography of Colonel Henry K. Burgwin, Jr., was published by
19 the University of North Carolina Press in 1985 under the title Boy Colonel of the
20 Confederacy; and

21 Whereas, during his career he was so esteemed that he was elected not only
22 as President of the 18,000 member American Bankers Association but also President of

1 the 5,000,000 member United States Chamber of Commerce, the only man ever to be
2 head of both organizations; and

3 Whereas, service to his native State was a guiding principle of Archie Davis's
4 life. His service included serving as a member of the North Carolina Senate from 1958
5 to 1962, as President of the Research Triangle Foundation, a signal economic engine for
6 our State with which he remained involved for 28 years, as Chair of the Duke
7 Endowment, as a member of the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, as a Trustee of the
8 National Humanities Center, as a member of the Board of Trustees of The University of
9 North Carolina, Salem Academy and College, the North Caroliniana Society, as a
10 member of the Board of Archives of the Moravian Church, and his personal
11 involvement in numerous other organizations of our State. Indeed, he once said "If you
12 don't want me to do something for my State, don't ask."; and

13 Whereas, during his long and productive life, Archie Davis was the exemplar
14 of a North Carolina gentleman and was known for his innate courtesy, his self-
15 effacement, his approachability, his consideration for the feelings of others, making him
16 not only revered but beloved by all with whom he came in contact; and

17 Whereas, Archie Davis died on March 13, 1998, at the age of 87; and

18 Whereas, Archie Davis is survived by his wife, Mary Louise Haywood Davis;
19 a daughter, Bonnie Bennett; three sons, Archie H. Davis IV, John H. Davis, and Dr.
20 Thomas W. Davis; eight grandchildren; and other relatives and friends; Now, therefore,
21 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

22 Section 1. The North Carolina General Assembly expresses its deep
23 appreciation for the life and accomplishments of Archibald Kimbrough Davis and for
24 the great service and contributions that he rendered to our State, Forsyth County, and
25 the City of Winston-Salem.

26 Section 2. The North Carolina General Assembly extends its deepest
27 sympathy to the family and friends of Archibald Kimbrough Davis.

28 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
29 resolution to the family of Archibald Kimbrough Davis.

30 Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.