

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
1985 SESSION  
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 56  
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1297

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOHN P. EAST.

Whereas, John Porter East was born in Springfield, Illinois, on May 5, 1931, the son of Laurence and Virginia Porter East; and

Whereas, John Porter East attended Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, where he distinguished himself as a football player and earned a Phi Beta Kappa key; and

Whereas, John Porter East contracted polio in 1955 while serving as a lieutenant in the United States Marines, and overcame his handicap to earn a law degree from the University of Illinois in 1959 and a Ph.D. degree in political science from the University of Florida in 1964; and

Whereas, John Porter East chose North Carolina as his home in 1964 and became an outstanding professor of political science at East Carolina University in Greenville, publishing articles in scholarly journals such as the Political Science Review, on whose editorial board he served, and in The Wall Street Journal and Human Events; and

Whereas, John Porter East described himself as "one of those rare creatures in academe, a conservative political science professor," a man who had great confidence in the private sector and who revered traditional values; and

Whereas, John Porter East was a genuine scholar in the political arena, a man who appreciated the complexity of issues and bolstered his arguments with quotations from Plato and St. Thomas Aquinas; and

Whereas, John Porter East was a dedicated, active member of the State Republican Party from his earliest days in North Carolina, running creditable races under his party's banner against daunting odds for Congress in 1966 and Secretary of State in 1968, working on the Party's national platform in 1976, and serving as Republican National Committeeman; and

Whereas, John Porter East was elected to the United States Senate in 1980, and during almost six years in that body energetically espoused the causes in which he believed; and

Whereas, John Porter East had struggled in recent years against failing health to represent the people of North Carolina, and had decided only reluctantly not to seek a second term; and

Whereas, John Porter East was the husband of Priscilla Sherk East and the father of two daughters, Kathryn and Martha; and

Whereas, John Porter East was a member of Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church in Greenville; and

Whereas, John Porter East is remembered by the people of North Carolina and America, some of whom have said:

"Never flamboyant or interested in personal acclaim, he was a quiet and effective legislator, who never waivered in his belief in principle and in his determination to keep our country strong." - President Ronald Reagan.

"...I expect that he will be most remembered for his astonishing intellect. He was a very wise man. He understood his country as few people do in terms of its principles and its fundamentals. And he did not hesitate once defending those principles." - Unites States Senator Jesse A. Helms.

"He served the people he represented so valiantly and so well." - Governor James G. Martin.

"...A patriot and a leader for North Carolina and our country - a man of keen intellect and courageous stature." - Congressman James T. Broyhill.

"I think his strength was his personal appeal and the fact that he's very articulate. He had a certain amount of charisma that was hard to deal with." - Congressman Walter B. Jones (once a political opponent).

"...a very fine, honorable Christian gentleman...He was sincere in every action that he took." - Former Governor Dan K. Moore.

Whereas, North Carolinians mourn the death of this courageous public servant, who loved his State and 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 John Porter East, and honors his memory.

Sec. 2. The General Assembly of North Carolina extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of John Porter East for the loss of a beloved husband, father, and friend.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall become part of the public records of this Session of the General Assembly and a copy of it shall be certified by the Secretary of State and transmitted to the family of John Porter East.

Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 9th day of July, 1986.