

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1571

Sponsors: Senators Rand; and Kinnaird.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

July 26, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROBERT RUARK,
2 NOTED NORTH CAROLINA HALL OF FAME AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST.

3 Whereas, Robert Chester Ruark was born on December 29, 1915, and died on
4 July 1, 1965, was a native of Wilmington, but spent much of his youth under the care of
5 his grandparents in Southport, North Carolina, later turning his fondest childhood
6 experiences into a successful literary account about coming-of-age lessons of integrity,
7 compassion, and a love for the outdoors; and

8 Whereas, Robert Ruark entered The University of North Carolina at age 15,
9 thereafter, graduating at age 19 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism before
10 beginning a stellar literary career as a novelist, reporter, columnist, navy officer, and
11 author; and

12 Whereas Robert Ruark made literary contributions to the genre of fiction with
13 his widely popular historical romance, Grenadine Etching, in 1947; and

14 Whereas, Robert Ruark began his journalist career with a series of small town
15 North Carolina newspapers, including the Sanford Herald, and later became employed
16 in Washington, D.C., as a sports writer for the Daily News where he met and married a
17 prominent interior designer, Virginia Webb; and

18 Whereas, Robert Ruark advanced rapidly as a talented journalist from war
19 correspondent to columnist syndicated in hundreds of national and international
20 newspapers with a readership in the millions; and

21 Whereas, Robert Ruark's stories were also featured in prominent national
22 magazines, including Field and Stream, and Esquire, where his boyhood experiences of
23 hunting and fishing with his grandfathers in Southport led to the publication of his most
24 popular work, The Old Man and the Boy, that to this day remains a sportsman's classic
25 and in continuous print; and

26 Whereas, Robert Ruark later became a recognized authority on the politics of
27 Kenya and East African struggles for freedom with the release of the documentary
28 Africa Adventure, which became the basis for the publication of his best selling novel,
29 Something of Value, based on the Mau Mau uprisings against British colonialism, in

1 1955 that later was produced as a major Hollywood film, and followed in 1967 by the
2 sequel Uhuru; and

3 Whereas, Robert Ruark authored seven other books, among them, Poor No
4 More, Horn of the Hunter, The Honeybadger, and The Old Man's Boy Grows Older;
5 and

6 Whereas, Robert Ruark was affectionately known as "The Poor Man's
7 Hemingway" for his candid recollections of the things he truly knew from experience
8 and is widely recognized as one of North Carolina's most accomplished authors; Now,
9 therefore,

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Robert Ruark
12 for his contributions to literature.

13 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
14 resolution to the Robert Ruark Society of Chapel Hill and the Robert Ruark Foundation
15 of Southport, North Carolina.

16 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.