

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 932

Sponsors: Representatives Martin and Killian (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

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

May 26, 2011

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE USO OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR
2 PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO OUR MILITARY
3 TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

4 Whereas, the United Service Organizations (USO) was established in 1941 to
5 provide civilian support for military personnel during World War II; and

6 Whereas, the first USO facility opened in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 1941 and
7 was soon followed by other facilities, including one in Jacksonville; and

8 Whereas, the Jacksonville facility has operated for 70 years and is the longest
9 continuously operating USO facility in the world; and

10 Whereas, the USO of North Carolina provides essential services to the many men
11 and women in the military based in our State, which is home to 11% of the U.S. military's
12 active duty forces, seven major military installations, and the fourth largest demographic of
13 active and reserve duty components in the country; and

14 Whereas, in 2010, the USO of North Carolina served over 320,000 troops in five
15 centers across the State, including two travel-based centers at Charlotte Douglas International
16 Airport and Raleigh-Durham International Airport, two installation-based centers in
17 Fayetteville/Fort Bragg and Jacksonville/Camp Lejeune, and a mobile unit that travels
18 statewide to support troops and their families in remote locations; and

19 Whereas, in 2010, an average of 8,750 people each month visited the travel-based
20 centers, which are staffed by volunteers and provide comfortable settings, Internet and phone
21 access, refreshments, play areas for children, and other entertainment options for military
22 personnel and their families; and

23 Whereas, in 2010, the travel-based centers through their "Honors Support Team"
24 performed over 70 plane-side dignified returns and aided nearly 1,100 family members of
25 fallen service members over the course of that year; and

26 Whereas, the USO of North Carolina will open another travel-based center in the
27 Fayetteville Airport and an information desk in the New Bern Airport in 2011; and

28 Whereas, the two installation-based centers serve an average of 50,000 troops and
29 their families, providing assistance with Rack Packs, care packages, deployments, and
30 homecomings and serving as recreation centers; and

31 Whereas, the USO of North Carolina helps family members stay connected with
32 deployed service members with their "Smiles Over Miles" program, which allows family
33 members in North Carolina to make videos at the centers and send them to deployed loved
34 ones, and "United Through Reading," which gives service members the opportunity to read a



1 story on video before they are deployed and then have it delivered to their children while they
2 are away; and

3 Whereas, the USO of North Carolina sponsors other programs, including surprise
4 birthday cakes for military members, wounded warrior support, seasonal and special programs
5 for the children of deployed service members, holiday meals, and a food pantry for members in
6 need; and

7 Whereas, the USO of North Carolina is constantly adapting to meet the needs of
8 today's service members and their families, such as providing reading and study skills seminars
9 for parents and children and establishing college campus satellite locations on or near USO
10 facilities to provide resource information and peer-to-peer contacts for veterans attending
11 college in our State; and

12 Whereas, with multiple deployments, financial challenges, mental health issues,
13 nuclear family disruptions, adjustments to injuries, and transitions to civilian life, it is more
14 important than ever that our military personnel receive the benefits and services provided by
15 the USO of North Carolina; and

16 Whereas, the USO of North Carolina and its more than 700 volunteers should be
17 commended for the outstanding support the organization provides to our service men and
18 women and their families; Now, therefore,

19 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

20 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives wishes to extend its appreciation to the
21 USO of North Carolina for providing programs and services to our military troops and their
22 families.

23 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
24 to the USO of North Carolina.

25 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.