

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

H.R. 1273  
Jul 1, 2014  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE RESOLUTION DRHR40276-LG-244 (06/30)

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Sponsors: Representative Richardson.

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Referred to:

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1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING RALPH DONALD EDWARDS, FORMER  
2 DIRECTOR OF PRISONS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
3 CORRECTION.

4 Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards was born on September 2, 1925, in Marshville,  
5 North Carolina, to Roland and Katie Edwards; and

6 Whereas, after serving in the United States Army Air Corps as a pilot trainee, Ralph  
7 Donald Edwards earned a bachelor's degree in Agronomy from North Carolina State  
8 University; and

9 Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards was a dedicated career State employee, serving 32  
10 years under nine governors; and

11 Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards spent several years as a farm manager, working in  
12 1949 for the State School for the Blind and Deaf and in 1951 for the Caledonia Prison farm;  
13 and

14 Whereas, in 1957, Ralph Donald Edwards became the Manager of Farms and Food  
15 Processing for the North Carolina Department of Correction and in 1961 was named the State's  
16 Director of Prison Enterprises; and

17 Whereas, between 1969 and 1973, Ralph Donald Edwards served for a period of  
18 time as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Correction and then as Secretary of the  
19 Department; and

20 Whereas, in 1973, Ralph Donald Edwards was named the Director of Prisons and  
21 served in that position until 1982; and

22 Whereas, in recognition of his service to the State of North Carolina, Ralph Donald  
23 Edwards was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2009; and

24 Whereas, after his retirement from the State, Ralph Donald Edwards became a cattle  
25 producer, working closely with North Carolina State University to test and develop the first  
26 stand of Tifton 44 Bermudagrass in North Carolina; and

27 Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards became the leading certified producer and planter  
28 of Tifton 44 Bermudagrass in several states; and

29 Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards was also the first cattle breeder to import the  
30 South Devon breed of cattle into North Carolina; and

31 Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards served for 10 years on the National Board for the  
32 North American South Devon Association, including two years as the Board's president; and

33 Whereas, during his time on the Board, Ralph Donald Edwards worked closely with  
34 the North Carolina Cooperative Extension and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to  
35 help make sure that quality beef was produced in the State; and



1           Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards served his community as a member of several  
2 organizations, including the Franklinton Planning Board and the Franklin County Planning  
3 Board; and

4           Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards died on June 19, 2014, at the age of 88; and

5           Whereas, Ralph Donald Edwards leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Jenny  
6 McGhee Edwards; his children, Wanda Dare Edwards and Susan Edwards Meisenhelder; his  
7 stepchildren, Brandon Hall and Jason Hall; his grandchildren, Patrick Piche, Adrienne Piche,  
8 Gregory Meisenhelder, Sgt. Albert Meisenhelder, and Candace Meisenhelder; his  
9 stepgrandchildren, Dylan Hall and Logan Hall; and his great grandchild, Max Meisenhelder;

10 Now, therefore,

11 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

12           **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Ralph Donald  
13 Edwards and expresses its appreciation for his dedicated service to the State of North Carolina.

14           **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives extends its deepest sympathy to the  
15 family of Ralph Donald Edwards.

16           **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
17 to the family of Ralph Donald Edwards.

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