

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1438

Sponsors: Senators Horton; Albertson, Allran, Apodaca, Basnight, Berger, Bingham, Blake, Brock, Carpenter, Carrington, Clodfelter, Dannelly, Dorsett, Forrester, Foxx, Garrou, Garwood, Hagan, Hargett, Hunt, Jenkins, Kinnaird, Lucas, Malone, Moore, Pittenger, Purcell, Queen, Reeves, Rucho, Shaw, Sloan, Smith, Soles, Stevens, Swindell, Thomas, Tillman, Weinstein, and White.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

June 8, 2004

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RONALD WILSON REAGAN, 40TH PRESIDENT
3 OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

4 Whereas, Ronald Wilson Reagan, our 40th President died on June 5, 2004, at
5 the age of 93 years; and

6 Whereas, we remember him as a man of charm, wit, and endless
7 self-confidence, embodying the optimism of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the eloquence
8 of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and the inflexible will of Theodore Roosevelt. Especially
9 do we remember his recovery for us all of the virtues of middle America and the values
10 of our founding fathers; his reminding us in his first inaugural address that the states
11 created our union not vice-versa; and his thrust toward devolution of power to the states.
12 We remember, too, his trenchant assertion that "Government is not the solution –
13 Government is the problem;" and

14 Whereas, we remember that our own State in March 1976, when his political
15 career seemed hopeless after five successive primary defeats, broke that string of
16 defeats, revived his campaign, and laid the foundation for his ultimate presidency in
17 1981; and

18 Whereas, we remember his steadfastness of opposition to "the Evil Empire"
19 of the Soviet Union even though many in his own party and the opposing party as well
20 as the media urged accommodation, urged that "we go along to get along." Indeed, we
21 remember the consternation of old Europe when he and Prime Minister Margaret
22 Thatcher pressed forward with a zeal to rearm the forces of freedom. We remember
23 especially that day of 1997 at Brandenburg Gate when he challenged Mikhail
24 Gorbachev, "If you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern

1 Europe, if you seek liberalization, come to this Gate ... open this Gate ... tear down this
2 wall;" and

3 Whereas, his determination, his spirited belief in the ultimate strength and
4 victory of freedom over oppression resulted in large part in the collapse of the Soviet
5 Empire and the liberation of more than 158,000,000 souls among the captive nations of
6 Eastern Europe; and

7 Whereas, his eloquence in the espousal of limited government, individual
8 self-reliance, and the lowering of our tax burden was accompanied by boundless good
9 humor, self-effacing wit, and a warmth which embraced all of his fellow citizens in all
10 walks of life and all political persuasions; and

11 Whereas, after two terms, he left office, he left with the affection of our entire
12 nation, and left us finally a legacy of personal courage as he met the ultimate adversary
13 with these poignant words, "I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of
14 life ... [but] I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead;" Now,
15 therefore,

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

17 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly mourns the passing of President
18 Ronald Reagan, a great American and a towering spirit who led us and the free world
19 through a time of peril to ultimate victory over, perhaps historically, our most dangerous
20 enemy.

21 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
22 Resolution to the family of President Ronald Reagan and the Legislature and Governor
23 of his home State of California.

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