

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1999**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1244\***

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Sponsors: Representatives Dockham; Howard, McCrary, Luebke, Barefoot, and Hurley.

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

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April 15, 1999

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILMER  
2 DAVID "VINEGAR BEND" MIZELL, FORMER NORTH CAROLINA  
3 CONGRESSMAN.  
4 Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell was born in Vinegar Bend, Alabama, on  
5 August 13, 1930, to Walter David Mizell and Addie Turner Mizell; and  
6 Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell was affectionately known as "Vinegar Bend";  
7 and  
8 Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell graduated from Leakesville High School in  
9 Leakesville, Mississippi, in 1949; and  
10 Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell married the late Nancy McAlphine on  
11 November 16, 1952; and  
12 Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell proudly served his country as a member of the  
13 United States Army from 1953 to 1955; and  
14 Whereas, during Wilmer David Mizell's early adult years, he pitched for the St.  
15 Louis Cardinals, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the New York Mets; and  
16 Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell retired from baseball in 1963 and accepted a  
17 position with the Pepsi-Cola Company in Winston-Salem working in the field of sales  
18 management and public relations; and  
19 Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell served as a County Commissioner for  
20 Davidson County from 1966 to 1968; and

1           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell served with honor and distinction as a member  
2 of the United States House of Representatives, representing North Carolina's Fifth  
3 Congressional District from 1968 to 1974; and

4           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell served as Assistant Secretary of Economic  
5 Development under President Gerald Ford, as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture under  
6 President Ronald Reagan, and as a member of the Council on Physical Fitness under  
7 President George Bush; and

8           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell was a staunch Republican who never wavered  
9 from his beliefs, which earned him admiration and respect from his peers, colleagues, and  
10 the citizens he represented; and

11           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell was named the Southern Baptist Christian  
12 Athlete of the Year in 1951 and was presented the Distinguished Citizen Award of 1969  
13 by George Washington University; and

14           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell was active in civic and community  
15 organizations, including the American Legion, and served as Chair of the Board of  
16 Trustees of Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Georgia; and

17           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell was a faithful member of Faith Missionary  
18 Alliance Church in Winston-Salem, serving as a lay speaker, deacon, Sunday school  
19 superintendent, and church board member; and

20           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell died on February 21, 1999; and

21           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell was a devoted husband and loving father and  
22 grandfather; and

23           Whereas, Wilmer David Mizell is survived by his wife, Ruth Cox Mizell, two  
24 sons, David Mizell and Danny Mizell, two stepchildren, Larry Laws and Linda Pate, four  
25 grandchildren and three stepgrandchildren; Now, therefore,  
26 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

27           Section 1. The General Assembly expresses high regard for the life and  
28 service of Wilmer David "Vinegar Bend" Mizell and mourns the loss of one of North  
29 Carolina's beloved and respected citizens.

30           Section 2. The General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the family of  
31 Wilmer David Mizell for the loss of its family member.

32           Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
33 resolution to the family of Wilmer David Mizell.

34           Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.