

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2015

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 853*

Sponsors: Senators Lowe (Primary Sponsor); Barefoot, Bingham, Brock, Bryant, Daniel, Ford, Foushee, Hise, B. Jackson, Pate, Sanderson, Smith, Waddell, and Woodard.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

May 11, 2016

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF EARLINE W.
2 PARMON, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon was born on November 18, 1943, in Buffalo, New York,
4 to James and Margaret White Cathcart; and

5 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon graduated from Anderson High School in Winston-Salem
6 in 1961 and earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Winston-Salem State
7 University in 1977; and

8 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon served her country as a member of the U.S. Army
9 Reserves, 508 Support Battalion, from 1977 through 1981; and

10 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon worked as an education consultant; in 1982, she founded
11 LIFT (Learning Is Fun Too) Learning Center and Academy to help at-risk students succeed and
12 served as the Academy's Executive Director until 2001; and

13 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon was active in the civic affairs of her community, serving
14 as the first African-American Chair of the Forsyth County Democratic Party and as a member of
15 the Board of Directors of the Forsyth County Library and the Board of Trustees of Forsyth
16 Memorial Hospital; and

17 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon served as a member of the Forsyth County Board of
18 Commissioners from 1990 to 2002 and as a member of the Board of Directors of both the National
19 Association of Black County Officials and the North Carolina Association of County
20 Commissioners; and

21 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon served with honor and distinction as a member of the
22 North Carolina General Assembly, serving five terms in the House of Representatives between
23 2003 and 2012 and one term as a member of the Senate between 2013 and 2014; and

24 Whereas, during her tenure in the General Assembly, Earline W. Parmon worked
25 tirelessly for her constituents and the people of this State on many matters, including racial justice,
26 equality, education, and justice for eugenics survivors; and

27 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon sponsored numerous bills that were enacted, including
28 bills to strengthen domestic violence protections, voter registration, voting at one-stop sites, and
29 many others. In 2007, she was the primary sponsor of legislation that established the Silver Alert
30 System, where a public alert could be issued when a person with dementia, and especially a senior
31 citizen, is reported missing. In 2008, 128 Silver Alerts were issued in North Carolina; of that
32 number, 118 citizens were safely recovered; and

33 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon's devotion to educational issues was embodied in her
34 work and leadership as chair and cochair of a number of Education Committees and study
35 commissions. Most notably as cochair of the Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and
36 High School Graduation, thousands of students across the State of North Carolina benefitted



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1 through funding awarded from 2007 through 2009 totaling in excess of \$48 million. The 2010
2 evaluation report to the General Assembly describes the exemplary programs that emerged
3 through this bipartisan effort and the significant number of youths that were served throughout the
4 State of North Carolina; and

5 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon also made significant contributions as a member of other
6 legislative committees, including Appropriations, Ethics, Government, and Redistricting; and

7 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon served on the National Conference of State Legislators'
8 Education Committee and Task Force on Dropout Prevention, served as Chaplain for the National
9 Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, and held several leadership roles for the
10 National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and

11 Whereas, because of Earline W. Parmon's vision and commitment to excellence in
12 education, the Earline Parmon Scholarship Fund was officially established in 2008. It was her
13 purposeful intent to effect change by helping to create an environment where all students would
14 have access to the necessary resources to further their education. She believed that no student
15 should ever have to worry about how they will pay for books or housing; and

16 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon received an honorary doctorate degree from
17 Winston-Salem State University in 2010, as well as recognition from many other organizations,
18 including the Outstanding Commissioner of the Year from the North Carolina Association of
19 Black Commissioners in 2001; Shirley Chisholm Legacy Award from Union Chapel Baptist
20 Church, Winston-Salem, in 2004; Outstanding Public Policy Award from the Winton-Salem
21 Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in 2006; North Carolina Political
22 Trailblazer Award from the North Carolina NAACP in 2009; Trailblazer Award from the Forsyth
23 County Democratic Women in 2012; and the Bertha "B" Holt Legislative Courage and Leadership
24 Award from Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina in 2014; and

25 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon was a member of Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa
26 Alpha Sorority and a devoted member of Exodus Baptist Church, of which she was a founder and
27 served as an Associate Minister; and

28 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon was married to the late Albert Parmon for 47 years; and

29 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon died on March 15, 2016, at the age of 72; and

30 Whereas, Earline W. Parmon is survived by her children, Elaine King, Grady Parmon,
31 Tracy Ingram, Angela Milton, and Morticia Killian; nine grandchildren; and 14
32 great-grandchildren; Now, therefore,

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

34 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Earline W. Parmon and
35 expresses its appreciation for the service she rendered her community, State, and nation.

36 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of
37 Earline W. Parmon for the loss of a devoted family member.

38 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
39 to the family of Earline W. Parmon.

40 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.