

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2017**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION 680**

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Sponsors: Senator Berger (Primary Sponsor).

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Referred to: Calendar 6/15/2017

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June 14, 2017

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MARK GERALD  
2 BINKER, FORMER MEMBER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CAPITAL PRESS  
3 CORPS.

4 Whereas, Mark Gerald Binker was born on December 29, 1973, to Gerald and  
5 Barbara Binker; and

6 Whereas, Mark Binker graduated with a degree in psychology from John Hopkins  
7 University in 1995 and earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland;  
8 and

9 Whereas, Mark Binker began his career in North Carolina as a reporter for the  
10 Greensboro News & Record, covering topics related to the Guilford County Commissioners,  
11 the Greensboro City Council, the High Point City Council, and the General Assembly; and

12 Whereas, in 2012, Mark Binker joined @NCCapitol at WRAL-TV in Raleigh,  
13 reporting on and investigating subjects related to State and federal government, including the  
14 General Assembly; and

15 Whereas, in March 2017, Mark Binker became editor for NC Insider, a State  
16 government newsletter owned by the (Raleigh) News & Observer; and

17 Whereas, Mark Binker served as past president of the North Carolina Capital Press  
18 Corps, in which capacity he assisted with the development of the organization's bylaws and  
19 policies; and

20 Whereas, through his participation with CapitalBeat, a national media organization,  
21 Mark Binker assisted with training journalists around the country on how to become better  
22 statehouse reporters; and

23 Whereas, Mark Binker spent over a decade covering politics in North Carolina; and

24 Whereas, Mark Binker was greatly admired and respected by those he covered,  
25 many of whom described him as an outstanding, tough but fair professional member of the  
26 media; and

27 Whereas, in an article written on WRAL.com, Mark Binker was described as  
28 "dogged, irascible, funny and kind, always ready to take on an intern or help a young reporter  
29 find his or her way"; and

30 Whereas, Mark Binker was deeply devoted to his wife and doted on his sons,  
31 spending much of his spare time coaching their sports teams and helping them with various  
32 school projects; and

33 Whereas, Mark Binker died on April 29, 2017, at the far too young age of 43; and

34 Whereas, in addition to his parents, Mark Binker leaves to cherish his memory his  
35 beloved wife, Marla Binker; their two sons, Mason Binker and Max Binker; in-laws, Bob and  
36 Fran Smith; brothers-in-law, Richard Smith and David Smith; and countless friends,  
37 colleagues, and readers; Now, therefore,

38 Be it resolved by the Senate:



1           **SECTION 1.** The Senate honors the memory of Mark Binker, a reporter of  
2 enormous talent, intellect, institutional knowledge, and professional dedication, and expresses  
3 its appreciation for his contributions to the field of journalism.

4           **SECTION 2.** The Senate extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Mark  
5 Binker for the loss of a beloved family member.

6           **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
7 to the family of Mark Binker.

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