

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

H.J.R. 971  
Jun 24, 2021  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR40642-LG-168

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Sponsors: Representative Carney.

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MELANIE WADE  
2 GOODWIN, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin was born on July 22, 1970, in Richmond, Virginia,  
4 to Albert Wade and Nancy Breinig Wade; and

5 Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin spent much of her life in North Carolina,  
6 graduating from Sanderson High School in Raleigh in 1988 and earning a B.A. in English from  
7 the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1992 and a Juris Doctorate from Campbell  
8 University in 2000; and

9 Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin began her professional career with the State of  
10 North Carolina, serving as the Special Projects Director for the North Carolina Council for  
11 Women from 1992 through 1997, where she had many responsibilities, including creating,  
12 editing, and overseeing the production of all publications, including brochures and booklets  
13 relating to women's advocacy; serving as the legislative liaison for the agency; monitoring State  
14 and federal legislation affecting families; and serving as a member of the North Carolina  
15 delegation to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995; and

16 Whereas, in 2000, Melanie Wade Goodwin opened a solo law practice in Hamlet,  
17 North Carolina, and later an additional office in Rockingham, where she focused mainly on  
18 family law until closing her practice in July 2007 to focus more fully on her legislative work and  
19 constituent service; and

20 Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin was elected to the House of Representatives in  
21 2004, succeeding her husband, former Representative Wayne Goodwin, to represent the citizens  
22 of Richmond and Montgomery Counties. She was the first woman to represent Richmond County  
23 in the General Assembly and the first sitting member to give birth while serving in office; and

24 Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin served for three terms in the General Assembly  
25 from 2005 to 2010 and, during that time, held several leadership positions, including chair of the  
26 House Election Laws and Campaign Finance Reform Committee, House chair of the Joint  
27 Legislative Administrative Procedures Oversight Committee and Joint Legislative Elections  
28 Oversight Committee, and vice-chair of the Judiciary I Committee, and was a member of several  
29 other committees, including Appropriations, Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public  
30 Safety, Education, Education Subcommittee on Community Colleges, Natural and  
31 Environmental Resources, Juvenile Justice, and Transportation; and

32 Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin sponsored legislation that strengthened  
33 investments in public education and rural economic development, helped improve public health  
34 and the courts system, and supported women's rights and women's health; and

35 Whereas, in 2011, after leaving elected office, Melanie Wade Goodwin was appointed  
36 Deputy Commissioner of the North Carolina Industrial Commission and, in 2019, named Chief  
37 Deputy Commissioner; and



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1           Whereas, in 2020, Melanie Wade Goodwin was nominated and accepted into the  
2 Women's Forum of North Carolina, which is "an invitational, nonpartisan organization of diverse  
3 women leaders dedicated to work to achieve and maintain equality and social, economic, and  
4 political power for all North Carolina women"; and

5           Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin was active in various civic and community  
6 activities, serving as President of the Rockingham Junior Women's Club (now Richmond Service  
7 League); President of the Richmond County Democratic Women; as a member of the Juvenile  
8 Crime Prevention Council, Richmond County Arts Council, Friends of the Library, Womenfolk  
9 Unlimited (now New Horizons), Woman's Club of Raleigh, and Pines of the Carolina Girl Scouts  
10 Council; as a founding board member of the Christian Closet; and as an appointee to the Sandhills  
11 Mental Health Area Board; and

12           Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin also served on the North Carolina Courts  
13 Commission and the North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board; and

14           Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin was an active member of the First United  
15 Methodist Church in Rockingham and the Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh;  
16 and

17           Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin received numerous awards and honors, including  
18 the "Woman of Tomorrow" Award from Pines of Carolina Girl Scouts Council (1997), Juanita  
19 M. Bryant Citizenship Award from General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina  
20 (2003), Star Award from Democratic Women of North Carolina (2003), Woman of Achievement  
21 Award from General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina (2006), and Richmond  
22 County Citizen of the Year (2009); and

23           Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin genuinely cared for everyone she met and was  
24 admired and respected by all who knew her or had the privilege to work with her; and

25           Whereas, Melanie Wade Goodwin passed away on September 1, 2020, after a valiant  
26 decade-long battle with cancer, leaving to cherish her memory, her husband of 22 years, Wayne  
27 Goodwin; daughter, Madison Wade Goodwin; son, Jackson Wade Goodwin; and her parents;  
28 Now, therefore,

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

30           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Melanie Wade  
31 Goodwin and expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation for her life and distinguished public  
32 service.

33           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family and friends  
34 of Melanie Wade Goodwin.

35           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the  
36 family of Melanie Wade Goodwin.

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