

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1096

Sponsors: Senators Martin of Guilford, Basnight, Soles, Perdue, Jordan, Shaw, Sawyer, Dannelly, Kincaid, Ballantine, Cochrane, Kerr, Conder, Warren, Rand, Plyler, Odom, Hartsell, Cooper, Gulley, Allran, Lucas, Winner, Albertson, Carrington, Blackmon, McKoy, Hoyle, East, Webster, Clark, Horton, Martin of Pitt, Forrester, Little, Davis, Foxx, Ledbetter, and Hobbs.

Referred to: Rules Suspended; Calendar 5/31

May 9, 1995

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MARY
2 FRANCES POWELL SEYMOUR, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY.

4 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell was born in the City of Raleigh, on April 12,
5 1922, to Robert C. Powell, former City Commissioner of Public Safety, and Annie
6 Rebecca Seymour Powell, a political activist; and

7 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell was a graduate of Needham B. Broughton
8 High School and Peace College; she also studied at Harvard University, the University
9 of Michigan, the Center for Creative Leadership, and Guilford Technical and
10 Community College; and

11 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell married Hubert E. Seymour, Jr., on February
12 3, 1945, and was the mother of two sons; and

13 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour worked for the Social Security
14 Administration and the United States Air Force; and was a legal assistant, court
15 reporter, and a licensed real estate broker; and

16 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour liked the City of Greensboro so
17 much that she made it her home, becoming very active in the city's civic and
18 governmental affairs; and

1 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour was a devoted and lifelong servant
2 of her community and State, serving as a member of the Womens Professional Forum,
3 the O. Henry Woman's Club, the Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs, Inc., the
4 Greensboro Legal Auxiliary, the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Development
5 Council, the Tarheel Trail Girl Scout Council, Inc., the Board of Visitors of Peace
6 College, the Board of Directors of Hayes Taylor YMCA, the North Carolina Arts
7 Council, the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Council, and as honorary member of
8 Business and Professional Women; and

9 Whereas, as a young child, Mary Frances Powell Seymour was exposed to
10 politics; she lived with her family in the Yarborough House in the City of Raleigh
11 where her father was the manager and where most of the members of the General
12 Assembly stayed while in Session; she assisted her mother in handing out political
13 leaflets for Thad Eure, Sr., who was running for his first term as North Carolina's
14 Secretary of State; and

15 Whereas, in 1966, Mary Frances Powell Seymour was elected to the
16 Greensboro City Council, only the second woman ever to win a seat on the city council;
17 she served three additional terms on the city council, and from 1973 to 1975, served as
18 Mayor Pro Tempore; and

19 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour was a member of the North Carolina
20 House of Representatives in 1977, 1979, 1981, and 1983, and the North Carolina Senate
21 in 1987, 1991, and 1993, during which tenure she served with honor and distinction and
22 was chair of several committees including Alcoholic Beverage Control, Public Utilities,
23 Libraries, Insurance, and of several subcommittees on Appropriations; and

24 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour was a member of the Legislative
25 Services Commission and the Legislative Ethics Committee and was Chair of the
26 Guilford County Legislative Delegation from 1982 to 1984; and

27 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour was a member of the North Carolina
28 Law Related Education Committee from 1980 to 1984, the State Transportation
29 Advisory Council from 1981 to 1983, and the Board of Directors of the National
30 Conference of Insurance Legislators from 1981 to 1983; and

31 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour received numerous awards and
32 honors including the 1970 Eleanor Roosevelt Award; the Bryant Citizenship Award in
33 1971; the Chamber of Commerce Dolley Madison Award; Distinguished Alumna,
34 Peace College in 1974; Distinguished Service Award, YWCA in 1975; "Who's Who in
35 Government" in 1975; the North Carolina Bar Association Legislative Recognition in
36 1980; Distinguished Service Award, North Carolina Public Health Association in 1982;
37 the "Good Sam" Award for Legislation Affecting the Hearing Impaired in 1982; the
38 Community Service Award, Bennett College; the North Carolina Recreation and Parks
39 Legislative Award in 1984; and the Distinguished Women of North Carolina Award, in
40 1993;

41 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour was dedicated in her service to
42 College Park Baptist Church, including her service as a Sunday School teacher for 10
43 years; and

1 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour was diagnosed with pancreatic
2 cancer in 1990, and survived with hospitalization, radiation, and chemotherapy, but at
3 all time kept up with her legislative duties and served her constituency effectively until
4 she died on August 26, 1994, at 72 years of age; and

5 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour is survived by her husband, Hubert
6 E. Seymour, Jr., two sons, Commander Hubert E. Seymour, III, (United States Navy,
7 retired), and Dr. Robert Seymour, two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild; and

8 Whereas, with the death of Mary Frances Powell Seymour, the General
9 Assembly, Guilford County, and the State lost a good friend and colleague and an
10 admired and respected individual; and

11 Whereas, Mary Frances Powell Seymour will be long remembered for her
12 caring for the needs of her State, its people and institutions, and for her leadership with
13 the tough problems of governing at all levels; she is a role model for many and her life
14 of service is an inspiration for all;

15 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

16 Section 1. The General Assembly expresses its deep appreciation for the life
17 and the accomplishments of Mary Frances Powell Seymour and for the great service she
18 rendered to the State of North Carolina, Guilford County, and the City of Greensboro.

19 Sec. 2. The General Assembly of North Carolina extends its sympathy to the
20 family of Mary Frances Powell Seymour for the great loss they have suffered.

21 Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
22 to the family of Mary Frances Powell Seymour.

23 Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.