

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

S

2

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 475
Judiciary II Committee Substitute Joint Resolution Adopted 8/9/01**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 15, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF LUNSFORD
2 RICHARDSON PREYER AND EMILY HARRIS PREYER, TWO OF THE
3 STATE'S MOST DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS.

4 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer was born on January 11, 1919, in Greensboro,
5 North Carolina, to W. Y. Preyer Sr. and Mary Norris Richardson Preyer; and

6 Whereas, Emily Irving Harris Preyer was born on October 16, 1919, to
7 William Coleman Harris and Jane Scales Harris in Reidsville, North Carolina, and grew
8 up in Greensboro; and

9 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer graduated from Woodberry Forest High
10 School in Woodberry Forest, Virginia, in 1937 and received a bachelors degree from
11 Princeton University in 1941; and

12 Whereas, Emily Preyer graduated from Woman's College of the University of
13 North Carolina, now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, in 1939, where
14 she served as student body president and later received a masters degree from the
15 University of Virginia; and

16 Whereas, during World War II, L. Richardson Preyer was a lieutenant in the
17 United States Navy serving four years on destroyer duty in the Atlantic and South
18 Pacific as a torpedo officer, gunnery officer, and executive officer and received a
19 Bronze Star for action in Okinawa; and

20 Whereas, during World War II, Emily Preyer served in the Red Cross in
21 Australia and the Philippines; and

22 Whereas, after the war, L. Richardson Preyer obtained a law degree from
23 Harvard University then returned to Greensboro, where he established a successful law
24 practice; and

25 Whereas, after her service in the Red Cross, Emily Preyer taught school for a
26 number of years in Greensboro and Charlotte and for a brief time worked as a
27 proofreader for The New Yorker magazine; and

1 Whereas, the Preyers were married in 1946 and began a life dedicated to their
2 family of five children, Richardson Jr., Britt, Mary Norris, Jane, and Emily, and their
3 community; and

4 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer served as a city judge from 1953 to 1954, a
5 State Superior Court judge from 1956 to 1961, and a United States District Court judge
6 from 1961 to 1963; and

7 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer served as senior vice-president, trust officer,
8 and city executive of North Carolina National Bank of Greensboro from 1964 to 1966;
9 and

10 Whereas, in 1963, L. Richardson Preyer resigned his judgeship and
11 unsuccessfully ran for Governor; and

12 Whereas, in 1968, L. Richardson Preyer was elected to the United States
13 Congress, where he served with honor and distinction until 1980; and

14 Whereas, as a Congressman, L. Richardson Preyer served as chairman of the
15 Select Committee on Ethics, which established the Congressional Code of Ethics, and as
16 a member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which investigated the
17 deaths of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King
18 Jr.; and

19 Whereas, Emily Preyer was actively involved in her husband's political
20 campaigns and served as president of the Congressional Wives Club and the
21 Congressional Wives Prayer Group; and

22 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer and Emily Preyer worked diligently for the
23 good of their community and State by actively and generously supporting numerous
24 civic, cultural, charitable, and political causes; and

25 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer was a member of the Piedmont Land
26 Conservancy and the National Governing Board of Common Cause, chair of the Coastal
27 Futures Committee and the North Carolina Outward Bound School, commissioner of
28 the Greensboro Little League and Pony Baseball programs, trustee of the National
29 Nature Conservancy and the Hastings Institute of Medicine, and director of Vanguard
30 Cellular Systems, Inc., and Piedmont Management, Inc.; and

31 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer served on the board of directors of Guilford
32 College, Davidson College, the University of North Carolina School of Social Work,
33 Community Self Help, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the North
34 Carolina Museum of History, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro
35 Excellence Foundation; and

36 Whereas, Emily Preyer served on the boards of The North Carolina Nature
37 Conservancy, the North Carolina Zoological Society, the Guilford Battleground Co., the
38 Shepherd Center, the Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina and the
39 University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and served as alumni association president
40 of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and

41 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer received numerous honors and awards,
42 including the Inter-Club Council's Outstanding Civic Leader of the Year Award, the

1 Greensboro Chamber's "Uncle Joe Cannon" Award for outstanding leadership, the
2 University of North Carolina School of Medicine's Distinguished Service Award, and
3 the Washingtonian Magazine's Phillip Hart Memorial Award for Conscience; and

4 Whereas, in 1989, the federal courthouse and post office in Greensboro were
5 named the L. Richardson Preyer Building; and

6 Whereas, Emily Preyer was named Greensboro's Woman of the Year in 1958
7 for her civic activities; and

8 Whereas, in 1998, the Preyers were the recipients of the North Carolina
9 Award for Public Service, the State's highest civilian honor; and

10 Whereas, in 2000, an 18,648-acre site in Tyrrell County was renamed the
11 Emily and Richardson Preyer Buckridge Coastal Reserve; and

12 Whereas, the Preyers were active in the First Presbyterian Church in
13 Greensboro; and

14 Whereas, Emily Preyer died on December 12, 1999; and

15 Whereas, L. Richardson Preyer died on April 3, 2001; and

16 Whereas, the Preyers are survived by their children, L. Richardson Preyer Jr.,
17 Britt Armfield Preyer, Mary Norris Preyer Oglesby, Jane Bethell Preyer, and Emily
18 Harris Preyer Fountain, several grandchildren, and other close relatives; Now, therefore,
19 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

20 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses high esteem and regard for
21 the extraordinary lives of L. Richardson Preyer and Emily Preyer and mourns the loss of
22 two of North Carolina's most distinguished citizens.

23 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the
24 family of L. Richardson Preyer and Emily Preyer on the loss of their beloved parents,
25 grandparents, and friends.

26 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
27 resolution to the family of L. Richardson Preyer and Emily Preyer.

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