

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 523

Sponsors: Representatives Earle, Saunders, Carney, Alexander (Primary Sponsors); Barnhart, Bell, Coates, Cole, Crawford, Cunningham, Fisher, Glazier, Gulley, Hackney, Hall, J. Harrell, Harrison, Hill, Holliman, Howard, Hurley, Insko, Jeffus, Justus, Luebke, Martin, McGee, McLawhorn, Neumann, Owens, Parmon, Pierce, Ross, Samuelson, Tarleton, Underhill, Wainwright, Walend, Walker, E. Warren, Weiss, Womble, and Yongue.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 7, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF RUTH MOSS
2 EASTERLING, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was born in Gaffney, South Carolina, on
4 December 26, 1910, to Benjamin Harrison Moss and Lillie Mae Crawley Moss; and

5 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling graduated from Centralized High School in
6 Blacksburg, South Carolina in 1929, received a bachelors degree in English from
7 Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina, in 1932, and later took additional
8 courses at Queens College in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

9 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was married to Claude Easterling; and

10 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling served as the Executive Assistant to I.D.
11 Blumenthal, President of the Radiator Specialty Company in Charlotte from 1947 to
12 1978 and continued to work part-time for the company until her death; and

13 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was one of the first women to pass the Certified
14 Professional Secretary exam in 1953 and served as President of the Charlotte, State, and
15 National chapters of Business and Professional Women; and

16 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling served as director of Wildacres Retreat between
17 1964 and 1974 and later served as a trustee for the organization; and

18 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was a proud and steadfast Democrat all her life,
19 faithfully and effectively serving her party in many capacities; and

20 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the
21 Charlotte City Council in 1972 and served in that position until 1973; and

22 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling served as President of the North Carolina
23 Women's Political Caucus in 1974; and

1 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was elected to the North Carolina House of
2 Representatives in 1976, serving with honor and distinction for 13 terms between 1977
3 and 2002; and

4 Whereas, during her tenure in the General Assembly, Ruth M. Easterling was
5 an advocate for women, children, health care, and education; she sponsored legislation
6 recommended by the Child Fatality Task Force and vigorously defended Smart Start
7 initiatives and funding; and

8 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was one of the first female legislators to serve
9 as cochair of the Appropriations Committee and was an effective member of several
10 committees including Human Resources, Judiciary I, Children and Youth, and Local
11 and Regional Government, Pensions and Retirement, Public Health, and State
12 Personnel; and

13 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling also contributed as a member of the Joint
14 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Legislative Services
15 Commission, and the Human Resources Committees of the Southern Legislative
16 Conference; and

17 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling served four years as the Chair of the Legislative
18 Women's Caucus and as the Chair of the Mecklenburg County Delegation; and

19 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was named the sixth most influential legislator
20 by the North Carolina Center for Public Policy and Research during her last term in
21 office, the highest ranking ever for a female legislator; and

22 Whereas, during her lifetime, Ruth M. Easterling received numerous honors
23 and awards and most recently received the Distinguished Women in Government
24 Award by the North Carolina Council for Women in 1993, the Legislative Award by the
25 Covenant with North Carolina's Children in 1999, which was renamed the Ruth
26 Easterling House Award, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor James B. Hunt
27 in 1999, the Women of Achievement Award by the General Federation of Women's
28 Club in 2002, the "Hero" Award by the North Carolina Children's Fatality Task Force,
29 the Distinguished Service to Education by the North Carolina Association of Educators
30 in 2002, and a Lifetime Achievement Award by the North Carolina Council of the Girl
31 Scouts of America in 2005; and

32 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Public
33 Service from Limestone College in 1999, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the
34 University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2001; and

35 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling was active in many professional and civic
36 organizations, including the Women's Equity Action League, Women Executives of
37 Charlotte, Women's Forum of North Carolina, League of Women Voters, and American
38 Association of University Women; and

39 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling joined the First Baptist Church in Charlotte in
40 1947, where she served as a Sunday school teacher, associate superintendent of the
41 Intermediate Sunday School Department, chair of the Evening Division of women's
42 Missionary Society and on the Library and Finance Committees; and

43 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling died on November 1, 2006, at the age of 95; and

1 Whereas, Ruth M. Easterling is survived by a sister, Ruby Francina Moss,
2 along with many nieces and nephews and other relatives; Now, therefore,
3 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

4 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Ruth M.
5 Easterling and expresses its appreciation for her contributions to the State of North
6 Carolina.

7 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly expresses its deepest sympathy to the
8 family of Ruth M. Easterling for the loss of its distinguished family member.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
10 resolution to the family of Ruth M. Easterling.

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