

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2013**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1121\***

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Sponsors: Representative Waddell (Primary Sponsor).

*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

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

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May 20, 2014

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF LEO MERCER,  
2 FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3 Whereas, Leo Mercer was born on March 20, 1926, in Chadbourn, North Carolina,  
4 to Bailey Mercer and Lottie Hinson Mercer; and

5 Whereas, Leo Mercer graduated from Chadbourn High School in 1943 and, during  
6 that same year, served in the United States Navy; and

7 Whereas, Leo Mercer was a farmer and business owner, serving as co-owner of  
8 Mercer-Worthington Funeral Home (now Worthington Funeral Home) until his retirement in  
9 1984; and

10 Whereas, Leo Mercer had a 33-year career with the United States Postal Service; he  
11 began working for the organization in 1951 and later served as the postmaster for the Town of  
12 Chadbourn from 1962 to 1984; and

13 Whereas, Leo Mercer was a leader in his community, serving as Mayor of  
14 Chadbourn from 1969 to 1970, 1975 to 1982, and 1999 to 2005 and as a member of the  
15 Columbus County Board of Education from 1982 to 1988 and the Columbus County Board of  
16 Elections from 2008 to 2011; and

17 Whereas, Leo Mercer served with honor and distinction as a member of the North  
18 Carolina House of Representatives for two terms between 1989 and 1992, where he was a  
19 member of numerous committees, including Agriculture, Ethics, Finance, Pensions and  
20 Retirement, State Government, State Revenue, and Transportation; and

21 Whereas, Leo Mercer served five years as a special assistant to Governor James B.  
22 Hunt, Jr. in the Governor's eastern office; and

23 Whereas, Leo Mercer was a member of several fraternal and civic organizations,  
24 including the Chadbourn Masonic Lodge #607, Chadbourn Merchants Association, Chadbourn  
25 Civitan Club, and Columbus County Committee of 100; and

26 Whereas, Leo Mercer was an active member of Chadbourn Baptist Church, where  
27 he held several positions, including deacon and superintendent; and

28 Whereas, Leo Mercer was honored by being named the North Carolina Postmaster  
29 of the Year in 1978, having a section of NC Highway 410 named the "Leo Mercer Highway,"  
30 and receiving the State's highest honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2012; and

31 Whereas, Leo Mercer was married to the late Irene Bullard Mercer; and

32 Whereas, Leo Mercer died December 26, 2013, at the age of 87; and

33 Whereas, Leo Mercer is survived by a daughter, Gwendolyn Mercer Sanderson; two  
34 sons, Kenneth L. Mercer and Kipling Sherrill Mercer; seven grandchildren; and 18  
35 great-grandchildren; Now, therefore,



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

2           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Leo Mercer and  
3 expresses the gratitude and appreciation of this State and its citizens for his life and service to  
4 his community, State, and nation.

5           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family of Leo  
6 Mercer for the loss of a beloved family member.

7           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
8 resolution to the family of Leo Mercer.

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