

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

H.J.R. 1121
May 19, 2014
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR40157-LG-188* (03/18)

Sponsors: Representative Waddell.

Referred to:

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,

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



* D R H J R 4 0 1 5 7 - L G - 1 8 8 *

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

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

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

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