

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H.J.R. 765
Apr 11, 2017
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR10257-LG-31 (02/25)

Sponsors: Representatives McGrady, Carney, Saine, and S. Martin (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

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

3 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on
4 November 4, 1959, to Bob and Peggy Culbertson; and

5 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson graduated from West Charlotte High School
6 in 1977 and earned a B.A. in Speech Communications from the University of North Carolina at
7 Chapel Hill in 1981; and

8 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson began her career in the securities and
9 insurance industry and later served as President of Philanthropy in Motion; and

10 Whereas, Representative Samuelson served with honor and distinction for four
11 terms between 2007 and 2014 and brought incomparable negotiating skills to forge agreements
12 on some of the legislature's most highly charged issues. Her ability to cross political chasms,
13 labels, and lines to bring consensus and solutions for a better North Carolina earned her the
14 admiration and respect of her colleagues and the nickname "the Velvet Hammer" due to her
15 ability to strongly lead with courage, grace, and kindness; and

16 Whereas, while in the General Assembly, Representative Samuelson served as chair
17 of the Banking and Environment Committees; as vice-chair of the Redistricting Committee, as
18 a member of the Committees on Appropriations, Commerce and Job Development, Commerce,
19 Finance, Health and Human Services, Public Utilities, and Rules, Calendar, and Operations of
20 the House; and as Republican Conference leader; and

21 Whereas, during her final speech on the floor of the House, Representative
22 Samuelson read a favorite quote from a hymn, "In Christ alone my hope is found... No guilt in
23 life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me"; and

24 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson was active in her community, serving on the
25 Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners from 2000 to 2004, President's Council of
26 Central Piedmont Community College, Board of Visitors of Johnson C. Smith University, and
27 Board of Counselors of Catawba Lands Conservancy; and

28 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson championed conservation, parks, and
29 environmental causes and, most notably, successfully advocated for the Mecklenburg County
30 Park's greenway system, including the Sugar Creek Greenway; and

31 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson was involved with many charitable
32 organizations, serving as a sustainer member of the Junior League of Charlotte, a member of
33 the National Board of Peacemaker Ministries, and a Charlotte Trustee of Speedway Charities;
34 and

35 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson was a mentor to men and women of all ages,
36 races, faiths, and positions; and



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1 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson was a woman of great faith and a member of
2 Uptown Church of Charlotte; and

3 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson was honored for her activities and community
4 involvement, including being named one of "50 Most Influential Women in Business,
5 Government" by the *Mecklenburg Times*; a Hall of Fame inductee of the National Association
6 of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., Charlotte Chapter; and a Green
7 Government Leader by the *Charlotte Business Journal*; receiving the Green Tie Award from
8 the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters; and having a mile of the greenway through
9 Mecklenburg County's Freedom Park named in her honor; and

10 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson was also the recipient of the Order of the
11 Long Leaf Pine, the State's highest commendation for public service; and

12 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson died January 23, 2017; and

13 Whereas, Ruth Culbertson Samuelson is survived by her husband, Ken Samuelson;
14 four children, Bobby Samuelson and his wife, McKinsey; David Samuelson and his wife,
15 Courtney; Joy Bennett and her husband, Chad; and Alex Cardiel; four grandchildren, Ford,
16 Margaret Ruth, Evan, and Mason; three siblings, Ewell Culbertson; John Culbertson, and Laura
17 Thomas; and several nieces and nephews; Now, therefore,

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

19 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Ruth Culbertson
20 Samuelson and expresses its appreciation for the service she rendered her community and State.

21 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly joins the family and friends of Ruth
22 Culbertson Samuelson in mourning a devoted and caring wife, mother, friend, and colleague.

23 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
24 resolution to the family of Ruth Culbertson Samuelson.

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