

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION DRHR50234-LG-106 (03/25)

Sponsors: Representatives Cotham, Carney, Earle, and M. Alexander (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF SUSAN MECUM
2 BURGESS.

3 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess was born on March 3, 1946, in Charleston, West
4 Virginia, to Shade Morris Mecum, Jr., and Rachel Browder Mecum; and

5 Whereas, after graduating from Saint Albans High School in West Virginia, Susan
6 Mecum Burgess attended West Liberty University, then earned a bachelor's degree in Health
7 Sciences from Florida International University and a master's degree in Public Health from the
8 University of Alabama at Birmingham; and

9 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess's career included working in private dental offices
10 and serving as a public health researcher and adjunct professor and as a health and church
11 administrator; and

12 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess was a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg
13 Board of Education from 1990 to 1997, during which time she served as chair from 1995 to
14 1997; and

15 Whereas, in 1999, Susan Mecum Burgess was elected at-large to the Charlotte City
16 Council and went on to serve for nine years, including seven years as Mayor Pro Tem; and

17 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess exhibited outstanding leadership abilities, serving
18 as chair of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission, president of the North Carolina
19 League of Municipalities, president of Women in Municipal Government, and chair of the
20 National Conference of Democratic Municipal Officials, and as a member of the Board of
21 Directors of the National League of Cities; and

22 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess served on the Executive Committee of the
23 Democratic National Convention and suggested that the organization consider Charlotte as the
24 host city for the 2012 National Convention; and

25 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess made significant contributions to several Charlotte
26 area boards and commissions, including the Arts and Sciences Council, the Council for
27 Children (now Council for Children's Rights), the Drug Education Center (now Preventive
28 Health Services), and the Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council; and

29 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess was the recipient of many honors and awards for
30 her many good deeds, including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest
31 citizen award, and the Order of the Hornet, Mecklenburg County's highest honor; and

32 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess was a member of the Covenant Presbyterian
33 Church, where she served as an elder; and

34 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess died on June 16, 2010, at the age of 64; and

35 Whereas, Susan Mecum Burgess is survived by her husband of 43 years, Dr.
36 William Patrick Burgess; four children, Geoffrey Burgess, Dr. Jason Burgess, Gillian Burgess,
37 and Colin Burgess; her parents; three siblings; and seven grandchildren; Now, therefore,



1 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

2 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Susan Mecum
3 Burgess and expresses the appreciation of the citizens of this State for her contributions to
4 Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and this State.

5 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives extends its sympathy to the family of
6 Susan Mecum Burgess for the loss of a beloved family member.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
8 to the family of Susan Mecum Burgess.

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