

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR45046-LG-78 (2/23)**

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Sponsors:     Senator Boseman.

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Referred to:

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1    A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF RICHARD JOHN  
2        MATTHEWS, FORMER OFFICER OF THE WILMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

3           Whereas, Richard John Matthews, the son of Dennis and Margaret Matthews of  
4    Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, graduated from Liberty High School in 1999 and obtained a  
5    Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from York College of Pennsylvania in 2003;  
6    and

7           Whereas, Richard John Matthews served as a law enforcement officer with the New  
8    York City Police Department from January 2004 until December 2006; and

9           Whereas, Officer Matthews joined the Wilmington Police Department on December  
10   11, 2006, where he served with honor and distinction for over two years; and

11          Whereas, on January 24, 2009, Officer Matthews and several other officers  
12   responded to a fire at a condominium complex that was fully engulfed and safely evacuated the  
13   residents of the complex, including a 96-year-old woman; and

14          Whereas, because of his actions, Officer Matthews was issued a commendation for  
15   his acts of bravery, courage, and professionalism on February 5, 2009; and

16          Whereas, Officer Matthews was killed in the line of duty at the age of 28 as he  
17   responded to a call for help from another officer on February 18, 2009; Now, therefore,  
18   Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

19           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Officer Richard John  
20   Matthews and expresses its appreciation for the service he rendered his community and the  
21   Wilmington Police Department.

22           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of  
23   Officer Richard John Matthews for the loss of a distinguished family member.

24           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
25   resolution to the family of Officer Richard John Matthews and the Wilmington Police  
26   Department.

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

