

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.R. 18  
Jan 29, 2025  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION DRHR40014-LG-21

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Sponsors: Representative Ball.

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Referred  
to:

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1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOSEPH "JOE"  
2 ROBERT JOHN, SR., LONGTIME MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
3 IN THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4 Whereas, Joseph "Joe" Robert John, Sr., was born on Thursday, October 12, 1939, to  
5 Joseph Andrew John and Stephanie Ann John in East Chicago, Indiana; and

6 Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., received a bachelor's degree in English with a  
7 minor in Political Science, a master's degree in Comparative Literature, and a Juris Doctorate  
8 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and

9 Whereas, upon completing his education and becoming a three-time alumnus of the  
10 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Joseph Robert John, Sr., remained an avid, lifelong  
11 fan of the University of North Carolina Tar Heels, celebrating many Tar Heel victories in Kenan  
12 Stadium and the Dean Dome; and

13 Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., assisted indigent clients upon assuming his first  
14 position as a lawyer with the Greensboro Legal Aid Foundation, before subsequently working as  
15 an Assistant District Attorney and Chief Assistant District Attorney, and as a litigation attorney  
16 for Pell, Pell, Weston and John; and

17 Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., had a highly distinguished career in public service  
18 which spanned the highest levels of the government of North Carolina across all three branches,  
19 serving as Director of the State Crime Lab, Acting Commissioner of the North Carolina  
20 Department of Motor Vehicles, and Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals; and

21 Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., was a highly capable public servant who dedicated  
22 his time, energy, and talents to the betterment of the State, representing North Carolina House  
23 District 40 in Wake County in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 2017 to 2025;  
24 and

25 Whereas, while serving in the legislature, Joseph Robert John, Sr., focused on  
26 Criminal Justice, Judicial Elections, Public Transportation, and Education. He served on  
27 numerous committees, including Appropriations; Appropriations – Justice and Public Safety;  
28 Education – Community Colleges; Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform; Judiciary 3;  
29 Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House; and Transportation; and

30 Whereas, while serving in the legislature, Joseph Robert John, Sr., participated in  
31 various caucuses across several different areas of interest, including the Bipartisan Safety and  
32 Criminal Justice Caucus, the Early Childhood Caucus, the Economic Development and Foreign  
33 Trade Caucus, the Joint Caucus on Arts and Arts Education, and the Life Science Caucus; and

34 Whereas, among his many contributions to improving the State of North Carolina,  
35 Joseph Robert John, Sr., served on the North Carolina Courts Commission and was appointed to  
36 chair the Commission by Governor Roy Cooper; and



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1           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., was an effective advocate for several important  
2 election initiatives, including filing bills to create a nonpartisan redistricting commission and  
3 nonpartisan judicial elections; and

4           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., was a primary sponsor of numerous bills that  
5 became law and have a significant impact on the workings of the judiciary and the criminal justice  
6 system; and

7           Whereas, the colleagues of Joseph Robert John, Sr., in the House of Representatives  
8 held him in the highest regard, listening to and depending on his wisdom and experience to seek  
9 to improve the workings of the judiciary and the criminal justice system; and

10           Whereas, in the eight years he represented House District 40, Joseph Robert John, Sr.,  
11 consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to serving the people of North Carolina and held  
12 the service of his constituents as a top priority, tirelessly advocating for their well-being—one of  
13 the many qualities that made him a much beloved legislator by his colleagues and the hundreds  
14 of thousands of people that he helped; and

15           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., has been a champion of justice and equity, standing  
16 firm in his dedication to ethical governance and the principles of the rule of law; and

17           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., upheld the highest standards of dignity and respect  
18 in public service, conducting himself with grace and humility throughout his public service  
19 career; and

20           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., provided thoughtful and principled leadership,  
21 using his extensive knowledge and wisdom to address the most pressing challenges facing the  
22 State; and

23           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., earned the trust and admiration of his colleagues  
24 and constituents through his unwavering integrity; and

25           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., served as an active member of the North Carolina  
26 and Wake County Bar Associations and served on the boards of numerous community  
27 organizations, including the Leesville Road High School Pride Athletic Association, the  
28 Greensboro Center for Creative Arts, Family and Children's Services of Greater Greensboro, and  
29 the North Carolina Forensic Science Advisory Board; and

30           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., was honored by the North Carolina State Bar with  
31 the "Fifty Years of Service" award; and

32           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., was recognized for significant contributions to his  
33 State and community, receiving the highest civilian honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award  
34 from Governor Jim Hunt; and

35           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., passed away on Monday, January 20, 2025, after  
36 a lifetime of working on behalf of the people of his community and the State; and

37           Whereas, Governor Josh Stein proclaimed that the flags of North Carolina be lowered  
38 to half-staff on Thursday, January 30, 2025, in mourning for and recognition of the exemplary  
39 life of Joseph Robert John, Sr.; and

40           Whereas, Joseph Robert John, Sr., is survived by a devoted family, including his wife  
41 of 42 years, Evelyn John; his children and their spouses, Steffi John Briley, Joseph Andrew  
42 "Andy" John II and his wife Allison, and Joseph "Joe" Robert John, Jr., and his wife Julie; his  
43 grandchildren, Lessie Ann, Annabelle, Aden, Ella, Remy, Dagny, and Samantha; his siblings,  
44 Andrea Webb and her husband Gary, and their three sons, and the Hon. Steven John and his wife  
45 Susan, and their son; and several other close family members; Now, therefore,  
46 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

47           **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives recognizes and expresses its  
48 appreciation for the public service rendered by Joseph "Joe" Robert John, Sr., which has  
49 contributed to the betterment of the State of North Carolina.

1                   **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives extends its sincerest sympathy to the  
2 family of Joseph "Joe" Robert John, Sr., in the loss of one of its most distinguished and  
3 outstanding members.

4                   **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the family  
5 of Joseph "Joe" Robert John, Sr.

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