

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 18

Sponsors: Representatives Ball, Reives, Morey, and A. Jones (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Calendar 1/29/2025

January 29, 2025

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



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.