

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1987 SESSION
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 12
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 146

A JOINT RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF THE DISTINGUISHED JURIST AND LEGISLATOR, THE LATE HONORABLE EARL W. VAUGHN, AND TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND HIS UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the Honorable Earl W. Vaughn served our State well for a quarter century as a distinguished jurist and legislator; and

Whereas, he rose from humble beginnings as the youngest of eleven children on a Rockingham County farm to become an outstanding leader in community, county, and State affairs; and

Whereas, his professional, civic, and political service began in Draper, Eden, and Rockingham Counties and spanned a variety of interests, including serving the church, the community college, rescue squad, the chamber of commerce, the fine arts, and local politics, in addition to his work as a member of the bar; and

Whereas, his distinguished service to our State began in 1960 when he was first elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives where he served five consecutive terms. For his recognized leadership, he was selected as Majority Leader in 1967 and as Speaker of the House in July 1967, and January 1969. He served on the first North Carolina Courts Commission and worked to make extensive court reforms, including the adoption of a uniform system of courts throughout the State. He chaired and co-chaired several key committees, including Utilities, Congressional Districts, Courts, Judicial Districts, Interstate Cooperation, Counties-Cities-Towns, and Appropriations committees. His legislative service was classified as "low-key but uncommonly effective"; and

Whereas, his contributions as a jurist began in 1969 when he was appointed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals by Governor Robert W. Scott. In 1983 he was named Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The efficiency of that Court reportedly improved significantly. In early 1985 he was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., to a seat on the North Carolina Supreme Court, where he served until ill health forced his retirement. His judicial contemporaries described him as "a hard worker whose opinions were concise and learned - one who brought integrity as well as humor to his work as judge"; and

Whereas, his contributions extended beyond our State borders with service on the National Conference of State Legislative Leaders, the Council of State Governments, the Southern Council of State Governments, the Regional Educational Laboratory for the Carolinas and Virginia, and the Commission for the Economic Development of the South; and

Whereas, his career of public service, impacting significantly upon our State's legislative and judicial systems, was cut short by an early death;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina honors the memory of the late Honorable Earl W. Vaughn, the distinguished jurist and legislator, for his dedication and life-long career of public service and for his many contributions to the legislative and judicial systems of the State of North Carolina, despite an untimely death.

Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 31st day of
March, 1987.

Robert B. Jordan III
President of the Senate

Liston B. Ramsey
Speaker of the House of Representatives