

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017**

H

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION 323

Sponsors: Representative Clampitt.

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

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 14, 2017

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HOWARD "BUDDY"
2 WILSON.

3 Whereas, Howard "Buddy" Wilson was born on July 24, 1934, in Charlotte, North
4 Carolina; and

5 Whereas, during his childhood, Buddy was a Boy Scout and achieved the rank of Eagle
6 Scout; and

7 Whereas, Buddy graduated from Harding High School in 1952, then enlisted in the
8 United States Navy, where he served until 1955, receiving an Honorable Discharge and earning
9 the National Defense Service Medal; and

10 Whereas, after serving in the Navy, Buddy returned to Charlotte, where he became a
11 firefighter with the Charlotte Fire Department (CFD) in 1957; and

12 Whereas, originally assigned to Engine Company 7, Buddy received several
13 promotions and attained the rank of Captain by 1963; and

14 Whereas, Buddy became a training officer with the Palmer Fire School, and his duties
15 included serving as a Recruit Training Officer; a North Carolina Fire Service Instructor; an
16 instructor for Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) in topics related to the fire service,
17 first aid, CPR, mountaineering, and rescue; and an arson investigator; and

18 Whereas, while a training officer, Buddy earned an A.A.S. degree in Fire Science
19 Technology at CPCC in one of the first graduating classes; attained numerous certifications in
20 areas such as CPR, fire investigation, rescue, and mountaineering; developed numerous training
21 programs and innovations in fire suppression and rescue; founded and led the CFD Specially
22 Trained in Rescue, Aid and Performance (STRAP) Team, which was the forerunner of all CFD
23 rescue, urban search and rescue, and special operations; and

24 Whereas, around 1974, Buddy was promoted to the rank of District Chief (Battalion
25 Chief) and later became Chief of the 3rd Battalion, Division B, serving in that position until 1983,
26 when he was promoted to the rank of Division Chief; and

27 Whereas, Buddy became the Assistant Chief of Operations in 1984 and also served as
28 an adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy, specializing in on-campus and outreach
29 courses nationwide in arson investigation and incident command; and

30 Whereas, Buddy retired from CFD as the Assistant Chief of Operations in 1987; and

31 Whereas, because of the numerous scars he received from countless fires and exposure
32 to chemicals and products of combustion during a time in the fire service when respiratory
33 protection was not considered mandatory, Buddy became a strong proponent of requiring
34 firefighters to use breathing apparatus in all atmospheres that could be considered immediately
35 dangerous to life and health; and



1 Whereas, during his retirement, Buddy founded a successful fire service training,
2 investigation, and consulting service, and, during the early 1990s, he accepted an appointment
3 with the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a post-disaster public damage assessor; and

4 Whereas, Buddy retired from all professional endeavors in 1997; and

5 Whereas, Buddy moved to Robbinsville, North Carolina, in 2001, where he was active
6 in American Legion Post 192 and was a faithful member of the Blessed Hope Baptist Church; and

7 Whereas, Buddy was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Wilson; and

8 Whereas, Buddy died on February 11, 2017; and

9 Whereas, Buddy is survived by a son, Michael Wilson; a daughter, Denise Medford;
10 and a grandson, M. Elijah Medford; Now, therefore,

11 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

12 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Howard "Buddy"
13 Wilson and expresses its appreciation for his life and outstanding service to the Charlotte Fire
14 Department and the fire protection service.

15 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives extends its deepest sympathy to the
16 family of Howard "Buddy" Wilson for the loss of a beloved family member.

17 **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to
18 the family of Howard "Buddy" Wilson.

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