

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR55054-LG-2 (07/31)

Sponsors: Senator Kinnaird.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ANNA
2 PAULINE "PAULI" MURRAY, A DISTINGUISHED CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER,
3 WRITER, LAWYER, FEMINIST, AND FORMER NORTH CAROLINIAN.

4 Whereas, Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray, the granddaughter of a slave and the
5 great-granddaughter of a slave owner, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, but later
6 moved to Durham, North Carolina, at an early age to live with relatives after the death
7 of her parents, William and Agnes Murray; and

8 Whereas, in 1926 Pauli Murray graduated in the top of her class at Hillside
9 High School in Durham and in 1933 graduated with honors from Hunter College in
10 New York, where she was one of four African-Americans in a class of more than 200
11 women; and

12 Whereas, Pauli Murray earned a law degree from Howard University in 1944,
13 a masters degree in law from Boalt Law School at the University of California at
14 Berkeley in 1945, and a Doctor of Juridical Science degree from Yale University in
15 1965, making her the first African-American to achieve this honor; and

16 Whereas, Pauli Murray held a number of positions throughout her career,
17 including serving as a teacher in New York City, a deputy attorney general of
18 California, a professor at Brandeis University, and a civil rights lawyer; and

19 Whereas, Pauli Murray was also an author and poet, publishing several books
20 and articles, including "Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family" and "States'
21 Laws on Race and Color"; and

22 Whereas, Pauli Murray became a civil rights leader and feminist after a
23 number of life experiences, including being denied admission to law school at the
24 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1938 because of her race and to graduate
25 school at Harvard University in 1944 because of her gender; and

26 Whereas, Pauli Murray participated in various civil rights demonstrations and
27 served on President John F. Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women Committee
28 on Civil and Political Rights in the early 1960s; and

1 Whereas, Pauli Murray help found the National Organization for Women
2 (NOW) in the early 1970s; and

3 Whereas, Pauli Murray became the first African-American woman in the
4 United States to become an Episcopalian priest after obtaining a Master in Divinity
5 from the General Theological Seminary in 1976 and performed her first Holy Eucharist
6 at the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill in 1977; and

7 Whereas, the Orange County Human Relations Commission established the
8 Pauli Murray Award in her honor in 1990; and

9 Whereas, Pauli Murray died on July 1, 1985, after leading a very
10 distinguished life; Now, therefore,

11 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

12 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Anna
13 Pauline "Pauli" Murray for her accomplishments and her contributions to civil rights,
14 the law, and the arts.

15 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
16 resolution to the family of Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray.

17 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.