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In Recognition of the Service of Millie Barbee  
to the Preservation of the  
History of North Carolina

By the North Carolina Historical Commission

David Ruffin, Chairman

A Resolution

**Whereas** Ms. Millie Barbee served the North Carolina Historical Commission in an extraordinary manner from 1991 until 2020, and

**Whereas**, for many years she acted as the vice chair of the Commission when the chair was unable to attend a meeting, and

**Whereas**, she served as the Commission's chair for five years, always considering herself the voice of the mountains on the Commission, while seeking the best for the entire state, and

**Whereas**, Ms. Barbee has often noted that her proudest moment during all of her years with the Commission was presiding over the meeting where the monument to commemorate the contributions of African Americans to the life of the state was unanimously approved for the State Capitol Grounds, still regularly asking Department of Natural and Cultural Resources staff, "Where are we with our project?" and

**Whereas**, Ms. Barbee, who is proud to call herself "an old Quaker," graduated from Guilford College and taught in the Guilford County schools before becoming involved in historic preservation and cultural tourism early in life—from mountains to the sea, serving as the executive director of the Burke County Historical Association, Beaufort Historical Association, North Carolina High Country Host, and the Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors Center, and

**Whereas**, after retiring to West Jefferson she took on downtown revitalization causing local police there to laugh at this retiree "community service worker,"

regularly watering the plants in the downtown flower boxes; and now flowers and visitors abound in downtown West Jefferson--but, just to make sure, Ms. Barbee always keeps Ashe County cheese close at hand, ready to promote her “place on the mountain,” and

**Whereas**, in Burke County, alone, Ms. Barbee spearheaded the restoration of the old county courthouse, created the local historic properties commission, published the Burke County architectural survey, and fundraised for two major archaeological digs, one that changed the understanding of Spanish exploration in the western part of the state, as well as leading efforts to restore Quaker Meadows, the McDowell County home of Revolutionary War hero Joseph McDowell, using it to put up young archaeologists, historic preservationists, and others working on her various projects, many of whom became leaders in North Carolina’s public history world, and

**Whereas**, Ms. Barbee has served on too many boards to list, but among them are the North Carolina Maritime History Council, the North Carolina Travel Industry Association, the Blue Ridge Parkway Association, the West Jefferson Community Partnership, the Blue Ridge Land Trust and Preservation North Carolina, and

**Whereas**, for her service to the state, she has been recognized with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Appalachian State University’s Outstanding Tourism Development Award, the Bill Sharpe Award for Outstanding Service to the North Carolina Tourism Association, and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association’s Christopher Crittenden Award for lifetime achievement in North Carolina History,

**Now, therefore, let it be Resolved** by the North Carolina Historical Commission, that this Commission does hereby on this day November 23, 2020, formally recognize Ms. Millie Barbee for her extraordinary service in the preservation of North Carolina History, and spreads this Resolution upon its official minutes, while sending a record of these sentiments to her and her family, and in further recognition of this service, requests that His Excellency, Governor Roy Cooper bestow Commissioner Emeritus Status upon her,

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David Ruffin, Chair

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Date

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Kevin Cherry, Secretary

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Date