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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
 Mecklenburg County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 29, 2022

**Senator Waddell Honors the Life of County Commissioner
 Ella Scarborough**

(Raleigh, NC) – Senator Waddell honors the life of Mecklenburg County Commissioner Ella Scarborough on the Floor of the Senate recognizing June 19th as the National Independence Day for the abolition of slavery.

I'm standing today in remembrance of a true champion for the citizens of Charlotte, and North Carolina. Ella Scarborough was a trailblazer for black women. She was passionate and became a veteran of civil rights. Ella began her advocacy early in her life and was a child of the civil rights movement. She was the great grand niece of Mary McCloud Bethune. Although her work began with the movement, Ella advocated for our vulnerable and marginalized populations. She worked tirelessly for youth literacy, public education, and the homeless.

As a member and past Chair of the Mecklenburg County Commissioners, Ella served the members of her community with style and grace. She was a fighter and a fierce proponent for those who were marginalized. Ella was the first African American woman to be elected to the Charlotte City Council, serving from 1987–1997 (district and at-large). She was also a statewide candidate for U.S. Senate in 1998 and ran for Charlotte mayor in 1999 and 2001. She was never afraid to go against the status quo, she believed that you have to put yourself on the line to help those less fortunate than yourself.

At the age of 17, Ella put her life on the line to integrate a segregated movie theater in her community, and then again years later for a bowling alley in Orangeburg, SC. Commissioner Scarborough was a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. She was a devoted mother to two children and widow of Levern "Pete" Scarborough. She graduated from South Carolina State University with a degree in library science education and earned a master's degree from the University of Charleston in West Virginia in organizational leadership.

Ella Scarborough passed away on May 24th at the age of 75. Ella was blessed, and she tried to bless others. "I am rising today in remembrance of this woman of the community, this staunch fighter for those less fortunate than she, to honor this community activist. I ask that we adjourn this session today in honor of Mecklenburg County Commissioner Ella Scarborough." Thank you!

Joyce Waddell
NC Senate
District 40
Mecklenburg County

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