



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sally Kost, Chair
George Lucier, Vice Chair

Mike Cross
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COUNTY

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

THANKING THE RESPONDERS TO THE COURTHOUSE FIRE

WHEREAS, while under an extensive exterior renovation, a worker's soldering torch ignited a tragic fire on March 25, 2010 in the Chatham County Historic Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the courthouse has, since 1881, been the centerpiece in Chatham County's evolution for over a century; and

WHEREAS, the fire started in a location that made it difficult to fight the intense flames and was fueled by heartwood timbers and windy conditions; and

WHEREAS, Pittsboro firefighters were on scene within two minutes of being called to fight the ferocious flames; and

WHEREAS, while Pittsboro firefighters fought gallantly to contain the fire, they quickly realized that additional brigades would be required if any part of the courthouse could be saved; and

WHEREAS, when called to service, more than 15 departments from around the area sent help, including: Pittsboro, North Chatham, Siler City, Goldston, Silk Hope, Moncure, Bonlee, Parkwood, Northview, West Sanford, Apex and White Cross Fire Departments; and

WHEREAS, when local law enforcement agencies were needed to secure the area around the courthouse, they responded to control access and protect the lives of people in the area, including bystanders; and

WHEREAS, many people from different agencies, including the County's Emergency Management Department, the County Fire Marshal, the State Bureau of Investigation, the North Carolina Highway Patrol, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation responded in numerous unselfish ways; and

WHEREAS, because of the efforts of the emergency responders and the cooperative efforts of the fire departments who worked so effectively together, the courthouse damage was severe but was contained enough that rebuilding is a reality; and

WHEREAS, many of these agencies responded knowing that they were potentially putting their responders in harm's way, but stepped up as many before them have done; and

WHEREAS, no casualties or injuries occurred to those fighting the fires, to other responders with risky duties, nor those who had been in the building only minutes before the fire became widespread; and


WHEREAS, the citizens of Chatham County recognize the value of history to our community and the importance of the historic Courthouse as a beloved icon and “heart” of our Chatham County community. Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County expresses its heartfelt appreciation and formally recognizes all those responders who worked so tirelessly during the fire. Further, we recognize that without the efforts of many, that we would have lost the entire building, so we are forever grateful that they saved the courthouse for future generations. We also express our appreciation for responders who played other vital roles during and immediately after the fire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners proclaim May 27, 2010 as “Emergency Responders Appreciation Day” in Chatham County.



Sally Kost, Chair

ATTEST:



Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners