



# PROCLAMATION

## A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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### NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

## NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH

ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE IN 1983, THE NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM HAS BEEN SERVING ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS. IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM'S CHILD ADVOCATE VOLUNTEERS AND PRO BONO ATTORNEYS TO NORTH CAROLINA'S ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN, THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024 IS HEREBY DECLARED "NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH" FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.

**WHEREAS**, THE NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM HAS A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE THROUGH ITS WORK TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS; AND

**WHEREAS**, ALL 100 COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA HAVE A GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM; AND

**WHEREAS**, GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEERS COME FROM A VARIETY OF PROFESSIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND PERSONAL BACKGROUNDS, AND ACT AS ADVOCATES FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN THE COMPLICATED AND OFTEN UNFAMILIAR COURT AND CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS; AND

**WHEREAS**, GUARDIAN AD LITEM PRO BONO ATTORNEYS ARE A VITAL PART OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM, AND ARE NEEDED TO SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATE FOR CASES ON APPEAL TO ENSURE THAT A CHILD'S BEST INTEREST CONTINUES TO BE HEARD; AND

**WHEREAS**, ABUSE AND NEGLECT HAVE LONG-TERM PERSONAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL COSTS, HURTING CHILDREN TODAY AND IMPACTING NORTH CAROLINA'S FUTURE; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE COURT APPOINTS GUARDIAN AD LITEM ADVOCATES TO SERVE AS OFFICERS, HELPING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF INFORMATION PRESENTED TO THE COURT; AND

**WHEREAS**, MORE THAN 4,600 GUARDIAN AD LITEM ADVOCATES AND OVER 100 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS DONATE THEIR TIME TO SERVE THE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN OF NORTH CAROLINA; AND

**WHEREAS**, APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH, AN OBSERVANCE THAT IS RECOGNIZED ANNUALLY IN THE UNITED STATES AS A TIME TO HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS THROUGH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH; AND

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I DO HEREBY ORDER THAT THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024, BE DECLARED AS "GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEER MONTH" FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

THIS THE 5TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

PAUL NEWBY, CHIEF JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA