



**RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
HONORING DOCTOR WILLIAM O. MCLARNEY**

*Whereas*, Dr. William O. McLarney is a highly respected aquatic biologist who has worked tirelessly to promote the conservation of wildlife diversity in the Little Tennessee River basin of North Carolina; and

*Whereas*, Dr. McLarney founded the Little Tennessee Watershed Association and the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (now Mainspring Conservation Trust); and

*Whereas*, Dr. McLarney has led successful efforts to conserve ecologically important natural areas as public lands, including the Needmore Game Lands and the US Forest Service Alarka Laurel; and

*Whereas*, Dr. McLarney has successfully advocated for local policies and regulations to protect water quality, riparian habitats, and floodplain conservation; and

*Whereas*, Dr. McLarney initiated and led the Upper Little Tennessee River Watershed Stream Biomonitoring Program for 35 years, accumulating the largest fish-based database of its kind, an invaluable source of long-term aquatic biological data; and

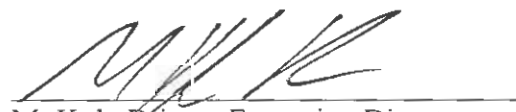
*Whereas*, Dr. McLarney has motivated local people and communities to be active stewards of streams and their watersheds and has inspired future leaders and conservation biologists through volunteer and intern programs;

*Now, Therefore, be it Resolved*, that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission does hereby pay tribute to Dr. William O. McLarney for his outstanding contributions to the citizens of North Carolina through his continued commitment to the conservation of the state's wildlife diversity;

*And be it Resolved Further*, that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission expresses its profound gratitude to Dr. McLarney and presents him with the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award for his exemplary leadership in the enhancement and conservation of North Carolina's non-game wildlife resources.

This resolution introduced by Chairman Mark Craig and unanimously passed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in a meeting duly assembled on December 4, 2025 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

  
Mark Craig, Chairman

  
M. Kyle Briggs, Executive Director