

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

THOMAS HENRY KRAKAUER

- WHEREAS,** Thomas Henry Krakauer was born in 1942 in Buffalo New York, to Dr. Hans and Elizabeth Krakauer, and transitioned on June 17, 2025; and
- WHEREAS,** he pursued higher education earning a B.S. from the University of Rochester, a M.S. from the University of Miami, as well as a Ph.D. in zoology and physiology from the University of Florida in 1970; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1974 he entered the museum field as the director of the Roanoke Valley Science Museum in Roanoke, Virginia and during his time there he grew the facility from a 400-square foot children's museum to a modern regional institution complete with interactive science exhibits and a planetarium; and
- WHEREAS,** Tom accepted the position of president and CEO of Durham's Museum of Life and Science in 1985 and increased the museum's annual operating budget from \$675,000 to \$4.2 million dollars; and
- WHEREAS,** under his visionary leadership, beloved additions like the Magic Wings Butterfly House came to life, and the Museum grew in both scope and impact. During his tenure, he secured six National Science Foundation grants, which helped shape the Museum's future in informal science education; and
- WHEREAS,** he received many awards and honors for his work and was generous with donations to various organizations, including a permanent endowment in memory of his late wife Janet for support of botanical illustration at UNC-Chapel Hill's North Carolina Botanical Garden; and
- WHEREAS,** after retiring in 2003, Tom devoted his considerable skills and talents to helping to establish and lead the Museum of Durham History; and
- WHEREAS,** we pause to honor this remarkable man who will always be remembered as an accomplished birder, butterfly enthusiast, and genealogist and for his "positivity, energy and vision".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby resolve to pay tribute to the life and legacy of

THOMAS HENRY KRAKAUER

An amazing man who was a national leader in the field of museums of science and technology.

This the 25th day of August 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

