

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

WILLIAM MARTIN “BILL” CHAMBERLAIN

- WHEREAS,** William Martin “Bill” Chamberlain, a pioneer in University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill basketball, died at the age of 75 on July 13, 2025; and
- WHEREAS,** Chamberlain, a long-time resident of Durham, NC, was the second Black varsity basketball player to join the UNC Tar Heels in 1969; and
- WHEREAS,** as a standout player, contributing significantly to the Tar Heels’ success, he led UNC to the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament in 1971, doing the same the next year also advancing to the Final Four in 1972; and
- WHEREAS,** Chamberlain, paved the way for future UNC basketball legends such as Bob McAdoo, James Worthy, Michael Jordan, Vince Carter, and others; and
- WHEREAS,** during the three seasons Chamberlain was a star player for UNC, he received Most Valuable Player honors for his play at the NIT before receiving second-team All-American accolades during his last year at UNC; and
- WHEREAS,** off the court and in the classroom, Chamberlain was a standout student as well as a civil rights activist who notably supported the improvement of working conditions, wages, and benefits for Black employees following the Cafeteria’s Workers Strike in 1969; and
- WHEREAS,** after his trailblazing basketball career at UNC, he began his professional basketball career with the Kentucky Colonels and the Memphis Tams in the American Basketball Association, and the Phoenix Suns in the NBA. He briefly played in France and later returned to the United States where he became assistant coach at Duquesne University (Pittsburgh), from 1976-1979. Chamberlain held other coaching, teaching, and state government positions until his retirement; and
- WHEREAS,** we respectfully honor the life and legacy of William Martin “Bill” Chamberlain and celebrate his impactful life of service to others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Board of County Commissioners resolve to pay tribute to

WILLIAM MARTIN “BILL” CHAMBERLAIN

We call upon all citizens of Durham County to remember his numerous contributions to athletic excellence, public service and all of the ways he made positive contributions to improve lives for others.

This the 28th day of July 2025.

Nida Allam, Chair

Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Michelle Burton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

