

Mecklenburg County commissioners back Israel resolution

BY MARY RAMSEY
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The Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to condemn recent violence in Israel, but not before hearing from multiple residents in support and opposition of the resolution.

The vote comes as violence continues in the Middle East in the wake of Oct. 7, when Hamas began an attack on Israel. Israel has since responded with airstrikes in Gaza, and thousands have already been killed and injured in both Israel and Gaza, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday.

The resolution was introduced by Commissioner

Mark Jerrell.

"The intent of this resolution is obviously to condemn acts of terrorism," he said. "It's also to support peace and stand in solidarity with our residents and colleagues, with all people that have been impacted by violence."

It's rare for members of the public to sign up to speak in favor or opposition of a resolution, commission Chair Georg Dunlap noted, and the commission invoked a rule that says groups of people signed up to speak on the same topic get 10 minutes of speaking time to share rather than the normal three minutes for every individual speaker.

Rabbi Judy Schindler, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Beth El, was among those

who spoke in favor of the resolution. Schindler said it's been difficult to watch "the tragic loss of innocent life in Israel and Gaza" in recent days, adding that she lost a second cousin in the attacks.

"I ask everyone in this room to help stop the cycle of violence and do everything in their power to protect innocent life and advance peace. Fighting here does not make peace there," she said. "This resolution is not about the conduct of the war. I will use my voice and power to advocate that everyone involved protect innocent civilian life. This resolution is about Israel's right to protect itself."

Emily Zimmern, who also spoke in favor of the resolution, said she's been sad-

dened to see "an alarming surge in antisemitism, Islamophobia and xenophobia" since violence in the Middle East escalated.

Police reported a 6-year-old boy in the Chicago area was fatally stabbed by his family's landlord, who attacked the child and his family "due to them being Muslim and the ongoing Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis." And in Charlotte, the FBI arrested a man this week accused of threatening the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

"The ramifications of these attacks ripple far beyond the borders of Israel," Zimmern said. "... It is incumbent upon all citizens of good conscience in our nation to unite against these forms of hatred, which threaten the safety and well-being of us all."

Other community members, such as Laila El-Ali, said they opposed the resolution because it didn't take into account the year-long suffering of Palestinian people.

"Through this condemnation Charlotte will be condoning the ethnic

cleansing and genocide of Palestinians ... You are condemning a false narrative," she said.

Jibril Hough, a spokesman for the Islamic Center of Charlotte, told commissioners he felt the resolution left out "the value of Palestinians, American Muslims and American Palestinians."

"As Muslims we condemn all forms of terrorism, from small groups like Hamas to state-sponsored like Israel," he said. "... We must stand against Islamophobia, racism, silence. We must stand. We must not support this resolution."

Multiple members of the commission thanked the public for sharing their thoughts, including Commissioner Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, who noted that the resolution was edited to remove the word "unprovoked" to describe Hamas's attack in deference to the history of the region.

"These are extremely complicated matters, and I don't want to pretend to say that I understand all of the history. But we also say that we stand in solidarity

with the rights of Israel and all people to live in peace and security, and we are including Palestinians in that," she said. "There's no way that we can stand here and not condemn terrorist acts, atrocities that are unspeakable. And that was our intent."

The resolution presented at Tuesday's meeting was also amended to say the commission "stands in solidarity with the right of Israel, and all people, to live in peace and security" rather than "stands in solidarity with the right of Israel, and its citizens, to live in peace and security," Observer news partner WSOC reported.

The resolution ultimately passed 9-0.

Someone who opposed the resolution left the chamber after the vote, shouting "Shame on you" and "Free Palestine" as they left the room.

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Biden plans to seek \$100B from Congress for Ukraine, Israel

BY JENNIFER JACOBS, ROXANA TIRON AND ZACH C. COHEN
Bloomberg

President Joe Biden is considering a supplemental request of approximately \$100 billion that would include defense assistance for Israel and Ukraine alongside border security funding and aid to nations in the Indo-Pacific, including Taiwan, according to people familiar with the matter.

Biden has pledged support for Israel in the wake of the deadly attack earlier this month by Hamas, a group designated by the US and EU as a terrorist organization. Aid for Israel enjoys broad bipartisan support in the US Congress.

Assistance for Ukraine, however, has struggled to earn the favor of House Republicans. A group of lawmakers supportive of additional aid for Kyiv earlier this month proposed that the administration pursue a joint aid package for Israel and Ukraine in hopes of overcoming Republican opposition.

The decision to include border security funding in the package is also aimed at garnering the support of Republicans in Congress who have long linked additional foreign assistance to addressing an influx of migrants in the US.

A spokesperson for the Office of Management and Budget declined to comment.

A person familiar with the administration's effort

to coordinate the request said that details of the package were still being worked out and stressed that the amount would cover an entire fiscal year. The previous request from the White House - which included \$24 billion in Ukraine assistance - covered only a three-month period.

Any request from the White House, though, will need to wait for House lawmakers to elect a new speaker after the ouster of Kevin McCarthy from the post. Any spending measure would need to be taken up by the House first but the chamber is unable to complete any legislative business until Republicans

coalesce behind a new speaker.

The sheer scope and ask of the package is likely to invite resistance in the House, where GOP differences on spending cuts and foreign aid have played out in the speaker fight.

Rep. Jim Jordan, the leading candidate to be the next speaker, has been a

skeptic of new Ukraine aid and conservatives in the House have demanded that an Israel package not be tied to further assistance for Kyiv. Jordan in recent days has given conflicting signals on Ukraine, including suggesting that additional aid would have to be tied to increased oversight.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Tuesday said he expected the administration to send the request by "the end of this week" and that it would include military, diplomatic, intelligence, and humanitarian aid for Israel.

"We'd like to get the supplemental package moved as quickly as possible because the needs are great in both Israel and Ukraine," he said.

Obituaries

OBITUARY INDEX

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Contact our obituary staff at 704-358-5382 or obitdesk@charlotteobserver.com

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Aphrodite "Aphroula" Kastanas Anderson December 11, 1934 - October 16, 2023



Charlotte, North Carolina - Aphrodite Kastanas Anderson but to all who knew her "Aphroula" passed away peacefully on Monday, October 16, 2023. Aphroula was born in Karyes, Laconia, Greece to Maria Skiouris and George Kastanas.

After the end of World War II and the failed attempt of the Communist Party to take over Greece, Aphroula along with her two sisters, Lula and Ellie, and their mother, Maria, boarded a ship to America and landed in New York City on October 8, 1950. There they met their father George whom they hadn't seen since the war broke out. Together they went to Charlotte, NC to begin a new life, where their father had immigrated before WWII and established a home for them. Several years later after learning a new language and graduating from Central High School, Aphroula met the love of her life the affable restaurateur James "Jimmie" Anderson. They were married in 1954 and shortly

thereafter began their family. When she wasn't beside her husband working at Anderson's Restaurant, she was busy raising her family of four children or volunteering at their church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. She was devoted to the church and served in various capacities there throughout her lifetime. She was one of the original organizers that started the Greek Festival which is still held annually.

Aphroula was also past Chair of the Heart Ball and volunteered many hours at Charlotte Latin School where her boys all attended. She had a passion for cooking and entertaining and hosted many, many large family and extended family gatherings at her home where the table was always bountiful. Aphroula would make any newcomer to Charlotte and the church feel welcomed. She was the embodiment of "Philoxenia".

Aphroula is survived by her four children, Renee Collins and her husband, Daryl, Gary Anderson, George Anderson and his wife, Lee Ann of Nashville, TN and John Anderson and his wife, Mimi. Aphroula "Yiayia" will be deeply missed by her grandchildren, of whom she was immensely proud: Philip Collins and his wife, Erica of Nashville, TN, James N. Anderson of Los Angeles, CA, Carter Anderson, Margaret "Liza" Anderson of Nashville, TN, James F. Anderson, Katherine "Kate" Anderson and James G. Anderson; three great-grand-

children and many beloved nieces and nephews. Also surviving are her sisters, Lula Kouvaris and Ellie Harakas and her husband, Theodore and her sister-in-law, Bett Anderson Kofinas. She was predeceased by her husband of 34 years, James A. Anderson, her parents, Maria and George Kastanas and her grandson, Christopher Collins.

Funeral services will be held at 12:30 PM on Friday, October 20, 2023, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The family will receive friends at the church beginning at 11:00 AM until the time of the service. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials may be offered in memory of Aphroula to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Foundation or Altar Fund, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203 or St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Philoptochos, 5108 Kuykendall Road, Charlotte, NC 28270.

May Her Memory Be Eternal.

Arrangements are in the care of Kenneth W. Poe Funeral & Cremation Service, 1321 Berkeley Ave., Charlotte, NC 28204; (704) 641-7606. Online condolences may be shared at www.kennethpoe.com.



Ivy Darlington August 25, 1930 - October 14, 2023



Charlotte, North Carolina - Mrs. Ivy Darlington passed away peacefully on October 14, 2023 at the Stewart Center of Cypress in Charlotte. She was born on August 25, 1930 in Manchester, England. She is preceded in death by her husband Frank Darlington and sister Elsie Warburton of Manchester, England. Ivy was a proud mother to son Peter Darlington, wife Treva of Weddington and daughter Pam Berg, husband Dwight of Charlotte. She was a loving grandmother to her granddaughters Brittany Moore (husband Andrew) of Monroe, Shannon Goodson (husband Justin) of Waxhaw

and Patricia DuVal of Charlotte along with her grandson Alexander DuVal (wife Alexandra) of Florida. Her greatest blessings were her 5 great grandchildren Rhett Moore, Austyn Moore, Sadie Moore, Harper Goodson and Easton Goodson.

Arrangements are under the care of Hankins and Whittington, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC, 28203, where the family will receive friends on Friday October 20, 2023 from 6:00-9:00pm. The Funeral service will be held at 11:00am, Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints 5815 Carmel Road Charlotte, NC followed by a graveside dedication at Forest Lawn East Cemetery 3700 Forest Lawn Drive Weddington, NC.

Online condolences can be made and a link to a livestream of the funeral service can be accessed at hankinsandwhittington.com



George "Bill" McCormick November 21, 1926 - October 17, 2023



Charlotte, North Carolina - George "Bill" William McCormick passed away on Tuesday October 17, 2023 in Kingsport, TN at the age of 96. His cause of death, as he would put it, was "extreme old age."

Bill was born on November 21, 1926 in Knoxville, TN to William Edward Shields and Elizabeth Lapsley McCormick. Bill attended West Virginia University and received a BS in Civil Engineering. He went on to work for Shell Oil Company, Southerland Associates, Inc., EA Industries, Inc. also, as an Independent Engineering Consultant. Bill joined the military and occupied Japan and Germany. When he wasn't working Bill enjoyed reading, bible study, and

watching football whenever he could. Bill married his wife Emily Schafer McCormick on November 3, 1956.

He is survived by his wife, Emily S. McCormick, his children, Eleanor (Ellen) M. Reed (David), William (Bill) E.S. McCormick (Terri), and his grandchildren, Michael Cameron McIlvane, Chelsea Lynn McCormick. He is preceded in death by his brother James Edward McCormick. (12/8/1929-1/6/2021)

The McCormick family would like to express heartfelt thanks to the numerous friends at PPC who have helped at every step of the way, also the incredible employees at The Blake in Kingsport TN.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church with burial following in the Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends immediately following the burial in the Church fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Providence Presbyterian Church building fund.

An online guestbook is available at www.heritagecares.com

Obituaries

Verian Plummer May 3, 1937 - October 15, 2023



Charlotte, North Carolina - Mrs. Verian Plummer, 86 of Charlotte, passed away Sunday, October 15, 2023, at her residence. Celebration of her life will be held Friday, October 20, 2023 at Steele Creek AME Zion Church 1500 Shopton Rd. Charlotte, NC 28217. Visitation will begin at 11:00 AM and the Service will follow at 12:00 PM. Interment will be in the Church Cemetery.



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