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Former State Legislator Earline Parmon Dies at 72

Longtime crusader for education, jobs and women's rights was Forsyth County's first black State Senator

Winston-Salem, NC – March 16, 2016 – Earline Parmon – a dedicated public servant who in 2012 became the first black state senator to represent Forsyth County – died on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 due to complications from a brief illness. Parmon, who was 72, was surrounded by family and friends at the time of her death.

Parmon was elected to represent N.C. Senate District 32 in 2012 – the pinnacle of a distinguished career that included five terms representing Forsyth's District 72 in the N.C. State Assembly. Prior, Parmon spent 12 years as a member of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

Parmon was an outspoken crusader for her constituents, taking strong stands on issues most critical to Forsyth County residents – including funding for education, affordable options for health care, jobs with a living wage, women's rights, protections for seniors and mental health reform.

Parmon's devotion to educational issues was embodied in her scholarship fund. Established in 2008 as a way to inspire young people to complete their college education, Parmon's hope was that this non-profit would serve as a catalyst for effecting change throughout the communities she served.

U.S. Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC), who recently had employed Parmon as her outreach director, released the following statement regarding Parmon's death:

"Today, one of my closest confidants, colleagues and a true friend, Earline Parmon, departed this life. My heart is broken and I know her passing will be felt in Winston-Salem, Greensboro and throughout the entire state of North Carolina.

"Earline Parmon was the true definition of a public servant. She dedicated her life to fighting for justice and fighting for our communities. From her work on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and in the North Carolina General Assembly, to her most recent service on behalf of North Carolina's 12th Congressional District. Earline Parmon has left an undeniable mark on North Carolinians across the state. She was loving, she was kind, she was respected, she broke barriers and she was inspirational."

A devoted member of Exodus United Baptist Church, Minister Earline Parmon was, in Adams' words, "...an obedient lover of the Lord, and his blessings in her life could be seen through her positive spirit and joyous energy."

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Parmon's spiritual advisor, Pastor Alvin Carlisle said it best – "Minister Parmon was a force to be reckoned with. She may have been small in stature, but she was a powerhouse who loved The Lord!"

Tanya Wiley, who has served as the PR Director for Earline Parmon over the years, and is the family's spokesperson added – "To reflect on the words of Dr. Mae Jamison, the first African-American female astronaut, "never be limited by other people's limited imaginations." Earline Parmon believed the sky is the limit, and nothing is impossible for those who are willing to put in the time and the work."

Earline Parmon's legacy will continue to live through all the lives she touched throughout her time on this earth.

The family will begin receiving guests at the home of Earline Parmon beginning Wednesday, March 16th at 10AM. Funeral Arrangements to be handled by Gilmore's Funeral Home in Winston Salem.

Celebration of Life Services for former NC State Senator Earline Parmon will be held as follows:

PLACE: Emmanuel Baptist Church
1075 Shalimar Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

DATE: Monday, March 21, 2016
TIME: 12:00 PM

There will be a family visitation and viewing on Sunday, March 20, 2016 from 5PM – 7PM at Emmanuel Baptist.

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