

# THE SENATE FLOOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NCJCI SENATE



Spring is coming...





LET'S WORK TOGETHER  
By Gene Shanks  
2025-2026 NC JCI Senate President

Hello Senate Family,

For those who weren't at the last Membership Meeting, we have approved the proposed bylaws that were sent to the google group back in January. In the course of the discussion, things got a little passionate, but those issues have since been taken care of. These changes will make our organization much stronger and take us in a positive step forward.

I'm proud to announce that we have 4 new Senators with 2 more that need to be presented. **Jasmine Beard, Brandon Hunter, Cindy Honickman and Autumn Gentry** were all presented with a Senatorship at the NC Jaycees Year-End Convention. When you see them, please welcome them into our organization. We still have 2 that we have to present and we are working with the local chapters to present them. One will be presented at a Greensboro Jaycees meeting and one at Greenville's Shuck & Pluck. More details will follow.

The Ollis/Saunders Golf Tournament is coming up and will be March 28, in Myrtle Beach, SC. It's not too late to put a team together to play. We still need a team that would officially be deemed the NC JCI Senate team. So I'm looking for volunteers to form this team. All the regions have been asked to put together a team for the tournament, so the only thing you would win is pride that you beat the other Regional Chapters. It's also not too late to buy a sponsorship for the tournament. So if you'd like to buy a sponsorship see Marty Wase ( [mwase@nc.rr.com](mailto:mwase@nc.rr.com) ). Each of the Regional Directors are working on some upcoming Socials.

Jennifer Smith, Rob Cook, Yvette Spears and Lynne Purvis have been working hard to give our members a social outlet allowing us to meet some Senators that may not have been as active as they have before.

We have 4 months to go with the 2025-2026 year to go. So let's have a fun and active few months so we can launch into the 2026-2027 year and make that team even more successful year than this one.

## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

A JCI SENATORSHIP IS THE HIGHEST HONOR A JAYCEE MAY RECEIVE. MEMBERSHIP BESTOWS A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE JAYCEE MOVEMENT. ONLY ABOUT 1% OF JAYCEES HAVE BEEN SO HONORED. JCI SENATORS SHARE A COMMON BOND OF SERVICE TO HUMANITY THAT EXTENDS BEYOND THEIR TIME IN THE JAYCEE ORGANIZATION. OUR PURPOSE IS TO MAINTAIN THE FRIENDSHIPS AND LIFELONG BONDS WE ESTABLISHED AS JAYCEES, AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, AS REQUESTED, TO THE JAYCEES TO HELP THEM GROW AND FLOURISH.

ON FEBRUARY 8, 2026, THE NC JCI SENATE GAVE FOUR OUTSTANDING JAYCEES THIS HONOR. IT WAS A GREAT NIGHT HONORING THE GREAT LEGACY OF THE NC JAYCEES. ALONG WITH MANY MEMBERS OF THE NC JCI SENATE, NC JCI PRESIDENT GENE SHANKS ALONG WITH NATIONAL JCI SENATE PRESIDENT BRUCE SOSTAK AND REGION IV MVP ELIZABETH MARTIN YOUNG PRESENTED THESE 4 OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS FROM THREE CHAPTERS ACROSS THE STATE THEIR SENATORSHIPS. THEY RAN THROUGH THE GAULANT BEING CHEERED ON BY THEIR FELLOW JAYCEES AND NEW SENATE FAMILY TO THE STAGE WHERE THEIR JOURNEY WITH THE SENATE BEGINS.

CINDY HOMICKMAN #84715 FROM THE RALEIGH JAYCEES. CINDY STARTED HER JAYCEE CAREER WITH THE RALEIGH JAYCEES AND THEN MOVED TO MISSOURI AND BECAUSE SHE HAD GOTTEN SO MUCH OUT OF HER EXPERIENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA, SHE CONTINUED HER JAYCEE CAREER IN MISSOURI. SHE MOVED BACK TO NORTH CAROLINA AND EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD AGED OUT, RESUMED HER JAYCEE CAREER CONTINUING TO HELP OUT WITH JAYCEE PROJECTS.

JASMINE BEARD, #84714 FROM THE GREENSBORO JAYCEES. JASMINE HAS SERVED IN MULTIPLE CAPACITIES IN THE GREENSBORO JAYCEES, INCLUDING ON THE BOARD AND CHAIRING MANY PROJECTS. JASMINE HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL STARTING AND SUSTAINING IN MANY OF THE MOST IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP PROJECTS SPONSORED BY THE GREENSBORO JAYCEES.

BRANDON HUNTER #84713 FROM THE GREENSBORO JAYCEES. BRANDON SERVED AT MULTIPLE LEVELS IN THE GREENSBORO AND NORTH CAROLINA JAYCEES INCLUDING AS LOCAL PRESIDENT. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FORGING A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GREENSBORO JAYCEES AND NC A AND T UNIVERSITY THAT CONTINUES TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE GREENSBORO COMMUNITY.

2025 NC JAYCEE PRESIDENT AUTUMN GENTRY #84722 FROM THE ROXBORO JAYCEES AND NC JAYCEES. AUTUMN HAS BEEN THE FEARLESS LEADER OF THE NC JAYCEES IN 2025 AND HAS DONE A GREAT JOB IN THIS ROLE. SHE SERVED THE ROXBORO JAYCEES IN MULTIPLE ROLES INCLUDING PRESIDENT MULTIPLE TIMES. SHE HAS BEEN AN INTERICTAL PART OF THE ROXBORO JAYCEES SIGNATURE PROJECTS INCLUDING THE FLEN WHITT BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL ORGANIZING SIGNIFICANT PARTS OF THE FESTIVAL WHILE SHE SERVED AS STATE PRESIDENT. SHE RETURNS TO HER HOME CHAPTER AS PRESIDENT THIS YEAR TO CONTINUE HER WONDERFUL JAYCEE CAREER.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO BEING A SUCCESSFUL SENATOR IS BEING INVOLVED. ALL OF THESE NEW SENATORS ARE WELL DESERVING AND WILL BE OUTSTANDING ASSETS TO THE SENATE ORGANIZATION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THEM BECOMING PART OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SHARON REISS, YVETTE SPEARS, JENNIFER SMITH AND PRESIDENT GENE SHANKS FOR AGREEING TO SERVE AS MENTORS TO THE 2025-26 FRESHMAN SENATOR CLASS TO SUPPORT THEM IN BECOMING AMAZING SENATORS JUST AS THEY ARE AMAZING JAYCEES.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BE A MENTOR TO THE 2025-26 FRESHMAN CLASS PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME AT ANGELSANDBUTTERFLIES@HOTMAIL.COM OR 336 317 8013.

MELANIE COBLE PASCHAL  
2025-26 NC JCI SENATE SOAR/FRESHMAN SENATOR PROGRAM MANAGER

Great  
work!



LET'S WORK TOGETHER  
By Suzanna Gill # 67981  
2025-2026 NC JCI Senate Vice President

Hello Senate Family,

We raised \$3025 after the \$500 winning ticket in the NC Senate Sweepstakes. It was approved at the December meeting for the Senate to keep 50% = \$1512.

We raised \$800 at the Holiday Games - all of which will be donated to charity.



#### Wheelchairs 4 Kids

I have been told that I like to talk, and there is truth to that. So, I want to do something that may seem unusual for me, I wish to yield the floor to one of many success stories from Wheelchairs 4 Kids. Today, we are meeting Caleb. He is an energetic and loving 10 year-old boy whose smile draws everyone to him. His laughter is said to be the best medicine you can receive. Caleb is also non-verbal, cognitively-delayed, and deals with cerebral palsy.

Unfortunately, Caleb requires a specific chair that will meet his physical needs. Because of the support of people like you, Wheelchairs 4 kids was able to provide Caleb with a Trotter mobile positioning chair. I will let Caleb's parents tell you what a difference this has made:

"As you can see, Caleb enjoys his chair!! He was able to go to bible school and attends Sunday school, every week. The boys in the class have accepted him and he has enabled the boy population to "rule the school" - something the boys are proud of. They ask Caleb to sit with them and even share the birthday cake, which wasn't such a good idea for his G-tube.... Thank you very much for everything you did to make Caleb's life as typical as possible!"

To read more about Caleb, and other success stories, please visit [Success Stories | Wheelchairs 4 Kids](#). If you want to be a part of the success stories to come, to change children's lives, please consider becoming a Guardian of the Wheel Kids. This is their recurring donor program that allows you to set up monthly donations that allows Wheelchairs to fund their most impactful programs. To learn more about how you can become a Guardian, please visit [Guardians of the Wheel Kids Monthly Donation Club | Wheelchairs 4 Kids](#). No gift is too small to make a difference.

As JCI Senators, we represent the living embodiment of the Jaycee spirit and ideals. By giving to those that we may never meet or have the chance to know, there is no higher act of selflessness and love.

In Jaycee Spirit,  
Scott Alexander (#67113)



LET'S WORK TOGETHER  
By Diane Upshaw #68685  
2025-2026 Kyle Bird Memorial Scholarship

Hello Senate Family,

We had another great year for the Kyle Byrd Memorial Scholarship. We had 26 outstanding Seniors apply from as far west as West Jefferson, NC, to Waxhaw, NC to Jacksonville, NC. The two seniors awarded for the 2025-26 year are: Addison Williams, Ashe County Early College High School in West Jefferson, NC and Indika Bridgewater, Piedmont Classical High School, Brown Summit, NC. Thanks to Jennifer Salmon, Mike and Marylou Harris, Jennifer Smith, Melanie Paschal and Elizabeth Pfrogner for serving as judges for the scholarship.



Attending the NC Jaycees year-end convention was exactly what I didn't know I needed. Going into it, I was feeling unsure about a lot of things and questioning myself more than usual. But being surrounded by my Jaycee family reminded me of who I am, why I serve, and what I'm capable of. Every smile, hug, conversation, and kind word helped lift my spirit more than you probably realized. I am so grateful to everyone who took the time to check in, say hello, and share encouragement. Thank you for reminding me that I am supported, valued, and never walking this journey alone.

Sharon Reiss  
2025/2026 NC JCI Senate Secretary #74082



# East Region

When I joined Jaycees, I learned about the elevator speech. The short, precise pitch you can share with others about what the Jaycees are all about. I learned to call the Jaycees a leadership training organization. I think this is still true, the Jaycees work to develop leadership skills through planning and implementing projects. These projects may be to benefit the community, raise funds for a priority project, or be a fun event for Jaycees to attend.

Some essential qualities of a good leader include clear communication, decisiveness, empathy, and the ability to empower and develop others, setting clear expectations, making tough choices, understanding team needs, and fostering growth to build trust and drive success. NC JCI Senators have been leaders in their local chapters, in the community, and within the Senate organization. This is an area where we can help leaders in the Jaycees to grow.

As chapters in NC continue to struggle to find and activate members, small numbers of leaders are running projects. We need to assist Jaycees in developing new leaders by learning to delegate tasks to newer members. I have heard Jaycees say that "we don't need any help" with a particular project. I have also heard if I ask a member to make 10 phone calls- they don't do it. It is essential to delegate the most basic tasks to new members to make them feel a part of the group. Also, 10 phone calls for one member may be 9 phone calls too many. Developing a new leader starts with the smallest of tasks. Being a leader means spending most of the time checking in with the team and giving encouragement.

As we consider training new leaders, I would like to invite all Senators to a Down East Regional social event during the Greenville Jaycees Annual Shuck and Pluck on March 7 from 5-9 pm. Location: American Legion, 403 St. Andrews Street, Greenville, NC, 27834. There will be all-you-can-eat oysters, chicken, and sides. Beer is available for purchase. There will be live music and a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds will be donated to NC

Support Our Soldiers, which supports troops and their families. Grab your tickets here: Shuck N Pluck Ticket - Greenville Jaycees  
In Jaycees,

In the Jaycee Spirit,  
Jennifer Smith  
Senate #63636



# DOLLARS AND CENTS

By: Author  
**BJ CRAFT #45900**

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Hello NC Senators,

Hope you all are doing well with this “winter, spring, freezing, winter, spring, rain” weather. This has been the craziest winter I think I have lived through in all my “many” years! Snow in Myrtle Beach, twice in one year – unheard of! Did get to enjoy a childhood treat with this last storm – SNOWCREAM!

Enough of that nonsense. Your treasurer has been busy. It all started in November with new Senator applications being sent by President Gene to all the NC Jaycee Chapter Presidents. Deadline for submittal – mid December. After some changes, additions & a couple of minor holdups, on December 22 nd I submitted six new Senator Applications to JCI in Missouri. The day after Christmas, I received word they were all approved & the package would be in my hands in a couple of days! This was so special for me, as I had never presented that many to JCI at one time, it was my first time for submissions of NC Jaycees & had never received approval that quickly! Thank you for going to Earl Sawyer for working during the holidays to make this happen & NC Jaycee chapters who submitted applications!

We are in the third quarter of our Senate year – the largest membership quarter of our year. We have 153 total members up for renewal – 117 are Life Member & 35 regular dues paying members. As of this writing, 15 regular members have paid, two of which became Life Members – Denise Gold LM#293 and James Andrew Lanier LM #284. We still have 20 who have not paid. Thank you to a couple of active Senators who have offered to assist in contacting these members. If you are due now, please send your dues along with your completed membership application to me ASAP.

FYI: First Qtr NC was +3. Second Qtr NC was +2. These are our Senators, colleagues & friends!

When paying your dues, please do not forget to fill out your Membership Application form and email or mail it to me. Make sure you include your email address, phone # and your birth month & day. (We are not interested in your age, just want to put you on our birthday list.)

BJ Craft #45900

Treasurer





## **Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament**

### **2026 Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament Update**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday March 28, 2026 during the annual Carolina Calabash Beach Bash. We will have an 8:30 A.M. shotgun start on March 28, 2026 at the Whispering Pines Golf Course in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Whispering Pines has hosted our tournament for many years and underwent a successful renovation project this past summer.

We will face some challenges this year as Region V will be holding their Spring Regional Meeting the same weekend as our Calabash Beach Bash. Our golf tournament will likely lose at least a couple of teams of golfers that normally play in our event but will instead be attending the Region V meeting. Please encourage any golfers that you know to participate in our tournament. Remember that golfers DO NOT have to be Jaycees or Senators in order to play in our event.

I would like to challenge all North Carolina JCI Senators that are not already golfers or sponsors to become a golfer and/or sponsor of our tournament. We desperately need your help!! We have sponsorship donation levels starting at \$25.00 all the way up to \$1,000.00 plus. All sponsorships are very important to us whatever the level. The more sponsorship money that we have, the more we will be able to donate to our charitable causes.

I want to thank ALL of our generous sponsors and players as well as all those Senators that work so hard the day of our event! Most of all I want to thank my EXCELLENT golf committee members: Bill & B.J. Craft and Cheryl Jones! Our registration and sponsorship forms are on our N.C. website as well as the U.S. website and in each edition of the E-News. The forms are also contained in this newsletter. Thank you for helping us make the 2026 Ollis/Saunders a great success!

Marty Wase,

Ollis/Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament Co-Chair

Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament Committee  
Bill & B.J. Craft                      Cheryl Jones                      Marty Wase



## Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament

22nd Annual four- man Captain's Choice tournament sponsored by the NC JCI Senate

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**  
**8:30 AM Shotgun start**  
**Whispering Pines Golf Course**  
**900 Harrelson Blvd/Myrtle Beach, SC**

A portion of the proceeds benefit the Kyle Byrd Memorial Scholarship Fund, Duke Cancer, NC Jaycee Burn Center, the Boys and Girls Homes of NC, the Vicki Blount Scholarship, and Wheelchairs 4 Kids

\$90 per person / \$360 for 4-person team. Price includes green fees, golf cart, lunch plus a goody bag  
Prizes include: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin

Make checks payable to: **NC JCI Senate**  
Mail checks & completed forms to:  
Marty Wase  
P. O. Box 723  
Pinebluff, NC 28373

### Entry Form 22nd Annual Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (H or W) \_\_\_\_\_

### Team Players

Player 1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

# 22nd Annual Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament

## Sponsorship Request Form



The **NC JCI Senate** is having its 22nd **Annual Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Tournament** on Saturday March **28, 2026**, at the **Whispering Pines Golf Course** in **Myrtle Beach, SC**. A portion of the funds raised in this annual tournament support the Kyle Byrd Memorial Scholarship, Duke Cancer, the NC Jaycee Burn Center, the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, the Vicki Blount Scholarship and Wheelchairs 4 Kids..

We invite you to join us as a sponsor for this event. By being a sponsor in this event you will be promoting your company to a group of people who are very loyal to its sponsors.

We thank you in advance for your support for this cause that is so dear to our hearts!

Sponsor levels:                      Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Cart Sponsor	\$300 Birdie Level Sponsor
\$50 Bogey Level Sponsor	\$350 Eagle Level Sponsor
\$100 Par Level Sponsor	\$500 Hole In One Sponsor
\$250 Lunch Sponsor	\$1,000.00 Double Eagle Sponsor

**Please make checks payable to: NC JCI Senate**

Please mail to Jim Ollis/Bobby Saunders Memorial Golf Co-Chairman:

Marty Wase  
P.O. Box 723  
Pinebluff, NC 28373

If you have questions, contact Marty Wase: [mwase@nc.rr.com](mailto:mwase@nc.rr.com)  
Or call at (910) 281-4644 home, (910) 691-5659 cell

Tournament Committee: Marty Wase Bill & BJ Craft Cheryl Jones

# Calabash Beach Bash

## Region IV Spring Meeting

March 26-29, 2026

Ocean Drive Beach & Golf Resort  
 98 North Ocean Beach Blvd  
 North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582  
 (800) 438-9590

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Senate or Friendship # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Senate or Friendship # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you Sharing a Room? \_\_\_\_\_. If yes, with whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration includes Hospitality Thursday Evening, Friday Hospitality and Dinner, and Saturday Hospitality and Dinner. Make Checks payable to: **Carolina Calabash Bash**. Mail to: Jimmy Maness, 3510 Cherry Lane, Greensboro, NC 27405

Item	Qty	Postmarked by	Postmarked	Total
		03/01/2026	After 03/01/2026	
Full Registration		\$85.00	\$95.00	
Friday Only Hospitality & Dinner		\$35.00	\$40.00	
Saturday Only Hospitality & Dinner		\$55.00	\$60.00	
Children Under 12		FREE	\$20.00	
Children 12-16		\$35.00	\$40.00	
Hospitality Only Per Day		\$30.00	\$35.00	
Grand Total				

Make Hotel Reservations directly with hotel. Room Block Code: **Calabash Beach Blast**

Rates: Oceanfront Double or King: \$159.00. Oceanfront Double or King Suite: \$169.00 + taxes and \$15.00/night City of North Myrtle Beach Resort Fee added.

**THREE NIGHT MINIMUM** to get a group rate. One night deposit due at Booking. **Cutoff date for Group Rate: 2/25/2026**

Questions: Jimmy Maness 336-706-9385. Pam Padgett: 910-389-5459

Revised 2/11/2026

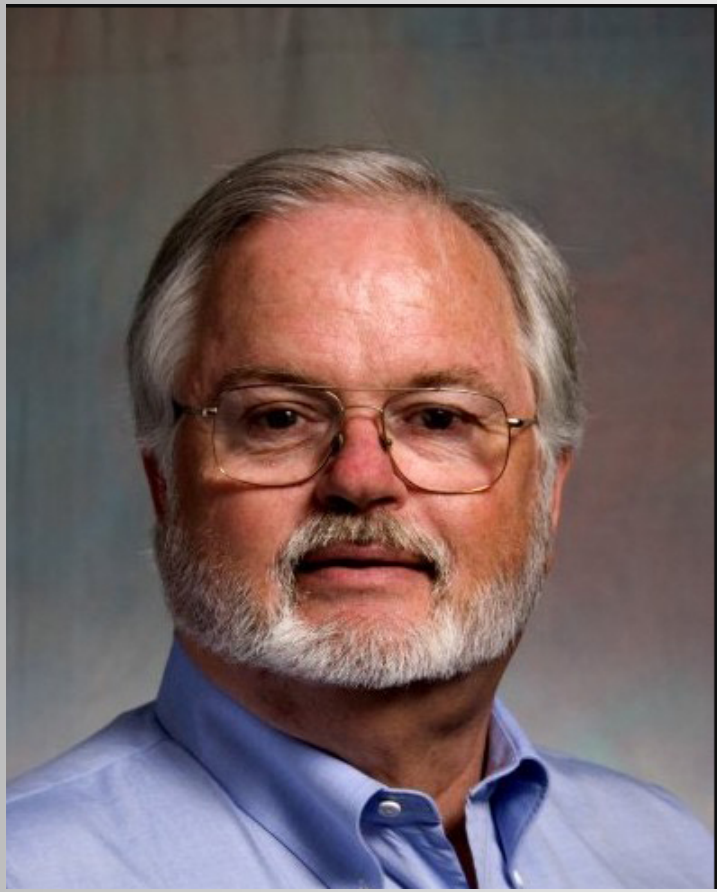


### Tribute to Ellen Williamson

Ellen Williamson #60880 and LM #152 passed away Sunday, February 8, 2026.

As Editor I would like to reflect on my friend Ellen was always there to encourage me through everything. She supported me during my time as Greensboro Jaycee President and later as NC Jaycee President, always offering guidance and kind words when I needed them. Her kindness extended beyond service as well—she even knitted a beautiful blanket for my newborn daughter, a gesture that meant so much to my family. Ellen had a truly kind heart, and her generosity and encouragement touched many lives. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We have no further details about arrangements at this time and will continue to provide updates as we receive them.

*Maria Hicks-Few*



Rest easy our friend

Jim Godfrey #35190 and Life Member #175 passed away Monday, December 1, 2025. Jim was a past NC Jaycee President from 1983-1984, past National Vice President, and a longtime "Jaycee Cottage Friend." Please keep his his wife Robyn and their family in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. Arrangements have not been completed at this time, but we will send service information when we receive it.

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## The **Jaycee Creed**

### We Believe

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose  
to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the  
sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by free  
men through free enterprise;

That government should be of laws rather than  
of men;

That earth's great treasure lies in human  
personality;

And that service to humanity is the best work  
of life.



Melbourne

# THE SENATE FLOOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NCJCI SENATE



## Thank You

By Maria Hicks-Few, Editor  
#70376

This publication will serve as a space to share updates, highlights, and important developments from the Senate floor, keeping our NC JCI Senate community informed and engaged.

As editor, my goal is always to ensure each edition provides clear insights, meaningful reflections, and a record of the work being done to advance our mission.

