



## Legislation Text

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### Title

## Order of the Hornet - Dr. John T. Crawford

### Action

#### **ACTION:**

**Induct Dr. John T. Crawford into the Mecklenburg County Order of the Hornet, the highest honor bestowed by the Board**

**Staff Contact:** George Dunlap, Chair

**Presentation:** Yes

#### **BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION:**

The Order of the Hornet was established in 1972. It is bestowed by the Board of County Commissioners on persons who have displayed valor or high order of service uniquely and specifically to the residents of Mecklenburg County. This is the highest honor bestowed by the Board. The Order of the Hornet was founded in the spirit of the early Mecklenburg patriots who signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 20, 1775, and proclaimed the County's freedom from Britain more than a year before the U.S. Declaration of Independence was signed. Those early patriots valiantly fought for their independence during the Revolution and gave Lord Cornwallis such difficulties during his occupation of Charlotte that he termed the town a "hornet's nest" of rebellion. Because Dr. John T. Crawford reflects the honor, strength, and fierce American patriotism that so stung Lord Cornwallis, he is being recommended for membership in the Order of the Hornet.

John T. Crawford started Greater Steps Scholars in 1983 as a dream and his "calling from God". After financially helping a young Charlotte Housing Authority resident to return to college for his senior year and graduate, Dr. Crawford's desire to help more students took action. He raised \$65,000 from friends and community supporters and established Greater Steps Scholars with the Foundation For The Carolinas. Since that time, the program has grown exponentially, awarding students with scholarships, guidance, and life navigators. Under Dr. Crawford's leadership, Greater Steps Scholars has achieved a great milestone, awarding its 1,000th scholarship in 2023 and awarding \$4.4 million to date.

**PROCUREMENT BACKGROUND:**

N/A

**POLICY IMPACT:**

N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A