

# North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature



**PRESS RELEASE:** *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## **NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature Inducts Dr. Judith Thomas Ray as Delegate for Catawba County**

March 29, 2022 – Raleigh, NC

At its first General Session of 2022, the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature inducted local resident Dr. Judith Thomas Ray as Delegate for Catawba County.

Dr. Ray is a retired Chief Technology Officer for Catawba County Schools. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina with a BA in Journalism and earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Media, and a Masters in Library Science from Appalachian State University. A Catawba County resident for 31 years, she enjoys gardening, reading, and wreath making. She is actively involved in the Catawba County Council on Aging and Hickory First Presbyterian Church and its outreach programs.

The Area Agency on Aging unit of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG Region E) stated, “Dr. Ray has worked with the NC school districts for her whole career and has garnered a lot of experience that will translate to helping the seniors of Region E. We are pleased that Dr. Ray has joined NCSTHL to utilize that experience and we welcome her innovative ideas.”

Ray says of her appointment to the NC STHL: “I am excited to join an organization that shows such passion for our senior citizens. The current economic environment requires continuing advocacy to ensure their needs are not forgotten or pushed aside.”

She expresses concern about health care for our aging population. “As I grew up, my grandmother lived with us and I was witness to her multiple health issues as she aged. Fortunately, we were able to care for her at home but I became aware that many senior citizens did not have that same opportunity. While I am concerned with socialization issues of the aging, I believe adequate and appropriate health care is a paramount concern.”

Ray’s addition to the NCSTHL will give her a powerful platform to work towards improving the quality of life for older adults not only in Catawba County, but across the entire state. She welcomes opportunities to speak with residents, stakeholders, and community groups in the county in support of her role as an advocate for older adults.

For more information, contact Dr. Judith Thomas Ray at [jthomasray@charter.net](mailto:jthomasray@charter.net) or 828-324-1599 / 828-312-8664. Additionally, visit [ncseniortarheellegislature.org](http://ncseniortarheellegislature.org) or contact Allison Brown, NCSTHL Public Relations Chair, [katbrown1029@gmail.com](mailto:katbrown1029@gmail.com) or 336-940-8185.

About the NC STHL: The North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature was created by the North Carolina General Assembly with the passage of Senate Bill 479 in July of 1993. Its purpose is to identify the most pressing issues facing older adults across the state and propose to the NC General Assembly legislation that will improve their quality of life. It is comprised of delegates and alternates representing each of North Carolina’s 100 counties, supported by the area agencies on aging of the state’s sixteen service areas.

Please visit the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging for additional resources at this link: <https://www.wpcog.org/area-agency-on-aging> .

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Dr. Judith Thomas Ray, NCSTHL Alternate, Catawba County

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