



News Release

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Commissioners Approve Naming Courthouse in Judge's Honor

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted June 5 to name the County Courthouse in honor and memory of retired Superior Court Judge E. Maurice Braswell, who died Jan. 30 after more than 50 years as a public servant.

In May, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge James Ammons Jr. and Cumberland County Register of Deeds Lee Warren presented a petition requesting the courthouse bear Braswell's name. The petition was signed by Cumberland County law enforcement and court officials.

Braswell's name will be installed above the current letters spelling Cumberland County Courthouse on the front of the building at 117 Dick Street in downtown Fayetteville. Additionally, a brass plaque will be placed in the interior of the courthouse.

Braswell was a decorated World War II veteran and prisoner of war who never thought twice about serving his country, Warren said. He earned his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and opened his legal practice in Fayetteville in 1950. He was later hired as the assistant solicitor, or what is known today as Assistant District Attorney. Braswell served as an assistant solicitor, solicitor, superior court judge, judge of the court of appeals and special emergency superior court judge.

“Naming the Cumberland County Courthouse after Judge Braswell is a wonderful way to honor a man who had such a significant impact on this community and our court system,” said Chairman Glenn B. Adams. “I enjoyed serving as a judicial clerk at the same time Judge Braswell was serving as a judge on the Court of Appeals. His name emblazoned on our Courthouse will serve as a reminder of his legacy and all he did for Cumberland County.”

Only two other courthouses in North Carolina are named for someone, Ammons said.

“There are scores of people who made this courthouse and judicial system what they are today and many others who served honorably and with distinction, but there is no one more deserving of this honor than Judge E. Maurice Braswell, a man of impeccable character and a public servant for 50 years,” Ammons said.

Braswell was instrumental in the construction of the Courthouse, which opened in 1978. He recognized the need for more space for the effective administration of justice in 1968 and presented a pamphlet to the board of commissioners explaining the need for a new courthouse. The building proposal was approved in 1975, and Braswell worked on the Courthouse Construction Advisory Committee.

Braswell was born in 1922 in Rocky Mount. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps at 19 and became an aerial gunner. Braswell's plane was shot down in 1944 and he was captured and taken as a POW for several months.

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