

**ORIGINAL**

**RESOLUTION NO.: R-2026-005**

*Approving the Honorary Placement of a Plaque at Saluda Riverwalk in honor of Joyace and Don Jackson*

WHEREAS, Dr. Don and Mrs. Joyace Jackson were long time Columbia residents who contributed greatly to the community through their professional service and dedication to the wellbeing of others; and

WHEREAS, the Jacksons enriched Columbia through extensive volunteer work, a shared love of nature, and active engagement in local organizations, earning the respect and appreciation of neighbors and friends; and

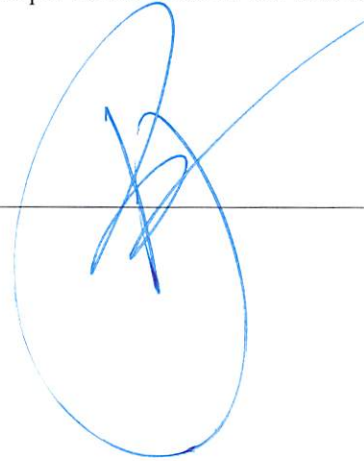
WHEREAS, on October 28, 2025, the Administrative Policy Committee endorsed the placement of an honorary plaque at the base of a tree at Saluda Riverwalk in recognition of the Jacksons' contributions; and, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026, that the Mayor and City Council hereby approve the honorary placement of a plaque at the base of the tree at Saluda Riverwalk in honor of Dr. Don and Mrs. Joyace Jackson.

Requested by:

Councilman Edward H. McDowell, Jr.


\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor




Approved by:

  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

  
City Attorney

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk

Introduced: 01/06/2026  
Final Reading: 01/06/2026



## HONORARY STREET/FACILITY, ROOM AND SITE NAMING APPLICATION

Please see submission checklist for materials necessary for application.  
**SUBMISSION MATERIALS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.**  
Application form and materials are **DUE AT 4:00 p.m.** thirty (30) days prior to ceremony.

- Is the designation:
- Honorary Street Naming (*Upper will be posted above standard City of Columbia street signs.*)
  - Facility Naming (*A marker or plaque will be posted inside and outside of facility.*)
  - Room Naming (*A marker or plaque will be posted outside of room.*)
  - Site Naming

- Checklist:
- Application
  - Council Members (District and one At-Large Sponsor)
  - 3 Letter(s) of Support
    - 1) One letter expressing Community support
    - 2) One letter expressing Neighborhood/Neighborhood Association or Merchant Association support
    - 3) One letter expressing Councilmembers' support

Russell Lynn Kelley  
Applicant Signature\*

Lynn.kelley1316@gmail.com  
E-mail Address

Russell Lynn Kelley  
Print Name

1316 Berkeley Rd, Columbia, SC 29205  
Mailing Address

803-361-3150  
Phone Number

October 18, 2025  
Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

- RLK Signage wording cannot exceed twenty-six characters. *to be reviewed*
- RLK Any changes to initial request must be made in writing no more than 30 days prior to ceremony.
- RLK Signage wording and resolution must be finalized 30 days prior to ceremony.
- RLK Applicant must provide letter(s) of support as outlined in the above checklist.



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY, ROOM AND SITE NAMING APPLICATION

1. Name of individual or organization to be honored:

Joyace and Don Jackson

2. Name of street, facility, room or site of proposed designation: *Please list the intersecting streets and block numbers for honorary street namings. No more than two signs are permitted per honorary street naming designation.*

- a plaque to be placed at the base of a tree at The Saluda Riverwalk Park

3. Attach sheet describing the significant contribution(s) this individual or organization has made in the community (no more than one page):

4. Location, date and time of unveiling ceremony if approved:

- to be determined

5. District Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Councilman McDowell

At-Large Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Councilwoman Bussells

**FOR STAFF USE:**

Public Works:  Approved  Rejected

Parks and Recreation:  Approved  Rejected

Support Services:  Approved  Rejected

Public Safety:  Approved  Rejected

City Council Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

October 18, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Councilor Bussells and I are proud to offer our support for the placement of a commemorative plaque at the Saluda Riverwalk honoring Joyace and Don Jackson two cherished members of our community whose lives exemplified the spirit of Columbia.

As longtime residents of our city, Joyace and Don were known not only as neighbors but as friends. Their warmth, energy, and helpful nature reflected the very best of Columbia's values. Whether walking the hills of Berkeley and Adger Roads or enjoying the serenity of our Regional Parks, including the Riverfront Park and Saluda Riverwalk, they embraced the outdoors and the community around them.

Don Jackson, a respected ophthalmologist and glaucomatologist at Columbia Eye Clinic, continued to serve the community even in retirement often seen bicycling through the city for both transportation and leisure. Joyace Jackson, a devoted docent at the Columbia Museum of Art and a Master Gardener, generously shared her knowledge, her art, and her plants with neighbors and friends. Her garden continues to bloom in yards across the city, a living testament to her kindness.

Their quiet generosity and enduring presence touched many lives. From Don's pottery to Joyace's garden cuttings, their contributions were personal and lasting. In one memorable act of neighborly care, Don responded immediately when a fallen tree struck a neighbor's home during their travels, inspecting and safeguarding the property until their return.

We support the placement of a plaque at its base, so that future generations may pause, reflect, and be inspired by the lives of Joyace and Don Jackson.

  
Edward H. McDowell, Jr.  
District II

  
Aditi Bussells  
At-Large Councilwoman

## **CITY OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA HONORARY SITE NAMING APPLICATION**

**NAMES:** Joyace and Don Jackson  
**SITE:** A plaque is to be placed at base of a tree at the Saluda Riverwalk

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY BY JOYACE AND DON JACKSON**

This application is for a plaque to be placed at the base of a tree that has already been planted at the City's Saluda Riverwalk Park in honor of Dr. Don and Mrs. Joyace Jackson. They lived for many years on Tomaka Road when Dr Jackson was one of Columbia's foremost ophthalmologists specializing in the treatment of glaucoma, and Mrs. Jackson was a registered dietitian who worked with children who had disabilities. Beyond these descriptions of their careers, the Jacksons contributed to the life of the community in many ways.

Joyace Jackson worked with children as a volunteer tutor in area schools. She also volunteered at the Columbia Museum of Art as a docent. In that role she welcomed visitors and increased their enjoyment of the museum, even participating in an exhibition of artwork by the docents. She also volunteered as a community gardener with the Columbia Garden Club and was a Master Gardener. When Don was not working to preserve the vision of his patients, he actively participated in enjoying the streets and parks of the city as a bicyclist. Together the Jacksons enjoyed the walkways along the rivers and being able to appreciate nature in the downtown area.

Most of all, the Jacksons are known and appreciated throughout their local community. They lived for years on Tomaka Road and neighbors all around that area have fond memories of them - she for her love of gardening and he for his helpfulness. Both were of a sharing nature so that many benefitted from gifts of the garden or of a helpful hand when work was to be done.

We are members of a local group known as the Columbia Literary and Jocular Society (CLJS), essentially a couples' book club. The group was established in 1994 and continues to this day. The Jacksons were members and through the years we spent times together discussing books and with each other in times of joy and sorrow. We felt that the planting of a tree in their honor would be a way to remember them in the City of Columbia.

As you read the letters written in support of this application, you will learn more about Don and Joyace Jackson. We hope that you will approve this request. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Members of the CLJS

Russell Lynn Kelley, Barbara Kelley, Keller Barron, Allen Coles, Gladys Coles, Mary Waters, Sam Waters, Bob Moore, Meribeth Moore, Fred Myher, Alicia Myher, Mary L. Bryan, and Tom Kohlsaat

Dr. Wayne Sribnick  
3650 Tomaka Road  
Columbia, SC 29205  
[waynebdr@bellsouth.net](mailto:waynebdr@bellsouth.net)  
October 19, 2025

Councilman Edward H. McDowell, Jr.  
City of Columbia  
P.O. Box 147  
Columbia, SC 29217

Dear Councilman McDowell,

I am writing in support of the Columbia Literary and Jocular Society's request to place a commemorative plaque on a tree along the Saluda Riverwalk in honor of Joyace and Don Jackson.

The Jacksons were devoted admirers of Columbia's green spaces, investing both their time and resources to help preserve and enhance our city's natural beauty. Joyace, a talented gardener and long-standing member of the Columbia Garden Club, was known for her deep love of nature and her gift for cultivating beauty in every environment she touched. She also gave generously of her time as a volunteer reader in Columbia's elementary schools, sharing her warmth and passion for learning with generations of young students. After a long bout with illness, Joyace passed away in 2024, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, service, and love for her community.

Don Jackson, an ophthalmologist by profession, served his country honorably in Vietnam, where he earned the Bronze Star for his service. Beyond his professional and military accomplishments, he has been a steadfast supporter of our community's civic and environmental initiatives.

The Jacksons' shared commitment to service and to the city's natural spaces makes them deeply deserving of recognition in a place they both cherished. A plaque along the Saluda Riverwalk, a setting that reflects their appreciation for Columbia's natural beauty, would be a fitting and meaningful tribute to their contributions.

Thank you for considering this request. This recognition would honor Joyace's memory and celebrate Don's continuing legacy of generosity, civic service, and devotion to the City of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Wayne Sribnick, MD

1401 Berkeley Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29205  
October 17, 2025

Columbia City Council  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
1747 Main Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Members of Columbia City Council,

This is a letter in support of the request for a plaque honoring Joyace and Don Jackson as members of the City of Columbia community. We lived in the same neighborhood and knew them as neighbors and as friends and would say that they exemplified the energy, friendliness and helpful spirit of the City of Columbia.

They enjoyed nature and the outdoors. Through the years, Joyace and Don were active and would be seen walking the neighborhood streets, including the steep hills of Berkeley and Adger Roads. Beyond the neighborhood, they enjoyed the city's Regional Parks – The Riverfront Park along the Canal, and The Saluda Riverwalk. Don spent free time bicycling for transportation and relaxation especially after retirement from the Columbia Eye Clinic where he worked as an ophthalmologist and glaucomatologist.

They were known as friends. As we have developed plans for the planting of the tree and the commemorative plaque, many neighbors and others in the community have remembered the friendliness and warm presence of the couple. They are thought of as a kind and quiet presence.

They were helpful. The couple contributed to the life of the City, each in their own way. Both Joyace and Don were interested in art. Joyace became a docent at the Columbia Museum of Art, and even participated in an exhibition of work by docents. Her other joy was found in the garden. As a Master Gardener, she learned and practiced effective gardening techniques. She did not keep this to herself – she willingly shared her knowledge, her plants, and her cuttings with many of us. Many of her plants bloom today. Don studied pottery and created vessels which were also shared.

Don was the person we called in 2018 when we were travelling overseas and learned that a massive tree had fallen and hit our house. We called, Don walked over, and he inspected, protected, and kept an eye on our house until our return. We hope that this lends support for the plaque to be placed at the base of the tree that has been planted at the Saluda Riverwalk honoring our friends and neighbors, Joyace and Don Jackson. Please let us know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,



Allen and Gladys Coles

**To:** Chanique J <Chanique.Belton@columbiasc.gov>  
**Subject:** Saluda River Walkway Tree sponsorship -Joyace and Don Jackson  
**Date:** October 20, 2025

I fully endorse and support a Saluda River Walkway Tree to commemorate Joyace and Don Jackson by the Columbia Literary and Jocular Society. I have known Joyace and Don for almost 20 years as friends and neighbors. They have both been wonderful examples of kindness, caring, and compassion for all of those around them, people and their pets, as well as passionate about using their God-given talents and energy to make our world a better, happier, and healthier one. It is only fitting that a remembrance of them be on this walkway where people will be exemplifying the lives and contributions of Joyace and Don.

**Rusty Miller**  
**803-466-0702**

[RustyMiller36@gmail.com](mailto:RustyMiller36@gmail.com)

**Additional Explanation:**

This was originally a request for a tree at the Riverwalk Canal Park where there the walkway is lined with trees and accompanying plaques bearing names of people along with brief memorial statements. We began with a request for such a tree. After initially applying in 2024 we were told that the Columbia Garden Club was removing and replacing trees and would no longer allow for commemorative stones to be placed at the base of future trees. Since no further trees were to be planted there, we inquired as to how to accomplish this simple task and were referred to the Saluda Riverwalk Park. The process there involved talking with the Park Rangers who offered great assistance in selecting a tree, the site, and finding an appropriate stone from the park. The tree was planted during a small intimate ceremony on November 20, 2024 while we were awaiting approval for the plaque.