PROJECT ACCESS - DR. SUZANNE LANDIS DAY
JUNE 11, 2026

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Medical Society was founded in 1885 and was renamed the Western Carolina Medical Society (WCMS) in 2011, and;

WHEREAS, WCMS has been an innovator in supporting and advocating for caregivers in the practice of medicine and working collaboratively with area organizations to address the health challenges facing our community's residents, and;

WHEREAS, Suzanne Elizabeth Landis, MD, MPH, spent her lengthy and acclaimed career caring for the residents of Western North Carolina as a practicing physician, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Landis has served on the faculty at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, director of the Center for Healthy Aging at Mountain Area Health Education Cooperative (MAHEC), a National Health Service Corps physician, a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, a Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services Innovation Advisor, and a Hartford Practice Change Leader, and;

WHEREAS, in 1996, in response to the growing number of uninsured residents of Buncombe County, Dr. Landis spearheaded the creation of Project Access, and;

WHEREAS, since its establishment, Project Access has been a vital healthcare initiative, connecting tens of thousands of uninsured, low-income residents in Buncombe and Madison counties who are ineligible for Medicaid with free, comprehensive medical care of more than $100 million in value, and;

WHEREAS, Project Access is a model program duplicated two hundred times in municipalities and regions across the nation, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Suzanne Landis is and shall forever be the guiding spirit of Project Access, and;

WHEREAS, Project Access is celebrating thirty years of **Moving Medical Mountains** for residents of Buncombe County,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners proclaims **June 11, 2026** as **Project Access - Dr. Suzanne Landis Day** in Buncombe County, and encourages other community agencies, healthcare practices and providers, hospitals, and residents to recognize the historic value and potential of this healthcare resource and its founder.

This 2nd day of June, 2026.

Amanda Edwards

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners