

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2311*

Sponsors: Representatives Barnhart, Johnson, Steen (Primary Sponsors); and Ray.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

May 22, 2006

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE CITY OF
2 KANNAPOLIS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CITY'S CENTENNIAL
3 ANNIVERSARY.

4 Whereas, in 1906, James W. Cannon, cotton merchant and textile
5 manufacturer, purchased land in northern Cabarrus and southern Rowan Counties and
6 established a mill village, which later became the City of Kannapolis; and

7 Whereas, James W. Cannon built towel manufacturing plants in northern
8 Cabarrus County and erected around those plants a "model mill town," a community
9 with decent housing, schools, churches, recreational facilities, a business district, and
10 good jobs; and

11 Whereas, skilled textile workers moved to Kannapolis from many other states
12 to work in the Cannon plants and produce textile products for the markets of the world,
13 eventually making the Cannon name synonymous with quality and value; and

14 Whereas, in 1921, James W. Cannon's son, Charles A. Cannon, assumed the
15 leadership of the Cannon Mills Company and continued his father's vision for
16 Kannapolis by expanding the mills and beautifying the business district of the area; and

17 Whereas, during the Great Depression, Charles A. Cannon managed to keep
18 the Cannon plants open, providing work for the plants' employees even though only a
19 few new orders were being received and helped persuade New York bankers to renew
20 the short-term obligations of the State of North Carolina, thus preventing a disastrous
21 default by the State; and

22 Whereas, Charles A. Cannon vigorously resisted legislation that adversely
23 affected the textile industry and successfully led the fight against "two price" cotton,
24 which favored foreign textile interests; and

25 Whereas, Charles A. Cannon and his mother, Mary Ella Bost Cannon,
26 generously supported many charitable causes, including the Cannon Memorial Hospital
27 (now known as the Northeast Medical Center); and

28 Whereas, Charles A. Cannon's wife, Ruth Louise Coltrane Cannon, promoted
29 musical education in the schools, contributed to the arts and cultural affairs, and

1 supported historic preservation, which included the renovation of the buildings of
2 downtown Kannapolis in the Colonial Williamsburg style; and

3 Whereas, the Cannon Family through the Cannon Foundation has continued
4 the philanthropic legacy that was first begun by James W. Cannon by generously
5 supporting health initiatives, education, arts and cultural pursuits, and numerous other
6 worthy benevolent causes; and

7 Whereas, although the textile industry has suffered devastating losses in the
8 last decade, the people of Kannapolis have rallied behind those who have lost jobs due
9 to various plant closings, discussed and developed a shared mission and vision for the
10 future of the City, and supported the various companies that plan to bring economic
11 development projects to Kannapolis; and

12 Whereas, one of the anticipated revitalization projects for the City of
13 Kannapolis includes the North Carolina Research Campus, a state-of-the-art
14 biotechnology hub that will draw upon the research knowledge and skills from the
15 State's renowned universities, cutting-edge training from community colleges, and the
16 expertise from private businesses; and

17 Whereas, David H. Murdock, owner and chairman of Castle & Cooke, Inc.,
18 and Dole Food Company, Inc., has established a \$100 million venture capital fund to
19 attract new companies to the Research Campus and a \$150 million charitable foundation
20 to help purchase equipment for the core laboratory and support other nonprofit activities
21 on the campus; and

22 Whereas, the people of Kannapolis possess an independent and indomitable
23 spirit, portray the characteristics of loyalty, pride of workmanship, and patriotism, show
24 a love for their families, churches, and community, take pride in their accomplishments,
25 history, and heritage, and live with their faces resolutely towards the future; and

26 Whereas, Kannapolis operated as a city for more than eight decades until its
27 incorporation by the General Assembly in 1984; and

28 Whereas, throughout the year of 2006, the citizens of Kannapolis plan to
29 observe the 100th anniversary of the birth of their city; and

30 Whereas, a centennial committee is collecting and preserving historic records
31 and photographs and plans to publish accounts of the early history and traditions; Now,
32 therefore,

33 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

34 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of James
35 W. Cannon and his son, Charles A. Cannon, for their outstanding contributions to the
36 textile industry, the City of Kannapolis, and the State of North Carolina.

37 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly joins the citizens of Kannapolis in
38 celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the mill village that became the City
39 of Kannapolis and encourages the people of this State to participate in activities
40 commemorating this historic occasion.

41 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
42 resolution to the Mayor of the City of Kannapolis.

43 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.