

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2005**  
**RATIFIED BILL**

**RESOLUTION 2005-21**  
**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 161**

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND INFLUENCE OF NORTH  
CAROLINA MUSICIAN AND SINGER CHARLIE POOLE.

Whereas, Charles Cleveland "Charlie" Poole was born in Randolph County, North Carolina, on March 22, 1892; and

Whereas, Charlie Poole learned to play the banjo at an early age and, after suffering a damaged right hand in a baseball accident, he transcended his injury and developed a unique three-finger banjo picking style that contained the critical elements necessary for the later development of bluegrass music; and

Whereas, like so many of his contemporaries during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the South, Charlie Poole followed the jobs available in the textile industry, and moved to the important textile complex at Spray, North Carolina, now known as Eden, around 1918; and

Whereas, in the mill towns of Spray, Leaksville, and Draper, Charlie Poole discovered a rich musical community, fed in part by the provision of professional music teachers for workers by mill management; and

Whereas, upon arrival in Spray, Charlie Poole met Posey Rorer, an accomplished fiddler, and later, Norman Woodlieff, a guitarist; and

Whereas, this trio of musicians formed an historic musical group named the North Carolina Ramblers; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Ramblers, led by Charlie Poole, journeyed to New York City to make a recording for Columbia Records in June, 1925; and

Whereas, the band's first recording, "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down" sold an astonishing 102,000 copies during the beginnings of the country music record industry; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Ramblers, with later replacement artists Roy Harvey and Lonnie Austin, among others, but always led by Charlie Poole, continued to produce hit recordings until 1930 when the Great Depression began; and

Whereas, Charlie Poole, by developing a unique style of banjo playing, and by incorporating the hard times of his era into his music, and by producing a cohesive band sound that influenced generations of later musicians, became the father of country music, paving the way with his success for later influential artists such as the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers; and

Whereas, Charlie Poole's music continues to be enjoyed today by a worldwide audience, thanks to the efforts of Poole biographer Kinney Rorrer and labels like County Records; and

Whereas, Columbia/Legacy, 80 years after his first recording session in July 1925, is releasing a three CD set produced by Henry "Hank" Sapoznik, which will be available for the first time during the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Charlie Poole Music Festival in the City of Eden on May 20-21, 2005; and

Whereas, as fellow North Carolinians, we recognize and salute the far-reaching musical influence and genius reflected in the life of Charlie Poole; Now, therefore,

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

**SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Charlie Poole and acknowledges his contributions and influence on country music. The General Assembly further encourages the citizens of this State to participate in activities commemorating the contributions of this extraordinary musician and singer during the Charlie Poole Music Festival, which will be held on May 20-21, 2005, in the City of Eden.

**SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the chair of the Charlie Poole Music Festival.

**SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.

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Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

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James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives