

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

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR55398-LG-415A\* (12/01)**

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Sponsors:    Senator Hartsell.

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Referred to:

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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

1           Whereas, Charles A. Cannon's wife, Ruth Louise Coltrane Cannon, promoted  
2 musical education in the schools, contributed to the arts and cultural affairs, and  
3 supported historic preservation, which included the renovation of the buildings of  
4 downtown Kannapolis in the Colonial Williamsburg style; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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