

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2478

Sponsors: Representatives Adams, Jones, Jeffus, Harrison (Primary Sponsors); Bell, T. Harrell, Setzer, and Wiley.

Referred to: Pursuant to Rule 32(a), Calendar for Immediate Consideration; Passed 2nd and 3rd Readings.

May 22, 2008

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE CITY OF
2 GREENSBORO AS THE CITY OBSERVES ITS BICENTENNIAL.

3 Whereas, on March 25, 1808, representatives of Guilford County, including
4 Charles Bruce, Hugh Forbis, Jacob Clap, William Armfield, David Caldwell Jr., George
5 Swain, and Nathan Mendenhall, purchased land to serve as the new county seat for
6 Guilford County from Ralph Gorrell for \$98.00; and

7 Whereas, on December 15, 1808, the General Assembly passed an act
8 designating Greensborough as the county seat of Guilford County; and

9 Whereas, Greensborough was named for Nathanael Greene, a patriot of the
10 Revolutionary War, who played a prominent role during the battle at Guilford
11 Courthouse; and

12 Whereas, the original spelling of the city was changed from "Greensborough"
13 to "Greensboro" during the late 1890s; and

14 Whereas, much of Greensboro's early growth was attributed to the railroad,
15 which transformed the small town into a thriving urban center and earned it the
16 nickname, "The Gate City"; and

17 Whereas, Greensboro's business legacy began with markets, shops, crafts and
18 trades, then agriculture, textiles, furniture, and tobacco industries like Cone Mills and
19 Burlington Industries became the backbone of the local economy with banking and
20 insurance companies making their mark later; and

21 Whereas, over the years, Greensboro has broadened its economic base by
22 branching out through companies like VF Corporation, AIG/United Guaranty, Lincoln
23 Financial Group, AT&T, American Express, TIMCO, New Breed Corporation, Cone
24 Health Systems, Gilbarco, RF Micro, United Health Care, Volvo, and Richardson
25 Creative Leadership Center; and

26 Whereas, Greensboro families and businesses have a rich history of
27 philanthropy that continues to grow and enhance the community; and

1 Whereas, while Greensboro grew economically, its citizens worked to resolve
2 civil rights issues; and

3 Whereas, Greensboro served as the site of the 1960 Sit-Ins, which gave the
4 national civil rights movement new momentum, inspiring sit-ins in 54 cities; and

5 Whereas, Greensboro's historical role in the civil rights movement will be
6 commemorated in the future International Civil Rights Center and Museum, which will
7 be located on the site of the 1960 Sit-Ins; and

8 Whereas, Greensboro has earned a reputation as a city of learning, serving as
9 the location of Guilford Technical Community College, which offers programs to meet
10 the needs of area employers and to prepare students for the workplace; the new Elon
11 University School of Law, which adds another prestigious professional program to the
12 area; and Greensboro College, Guilford College, Bennett College, the University of
13 North Carolina at Greensboro, and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State
14 University; and

15 Whereas, Guilford College, an independent coeducational institution
16 established by Quakers and chartered in 1834, has the distinction of being among the
17 few college campuses listed by the United States Department of the Interior as a
18 National Historic District; and

19 Whereas, Greensboro College, a four-year, independent, coeducational
20 institution founded in 1838, enrolls almost 1,300 students representing 27 states and 16
21 nations; and

22 Whereas, Bennett College, an independent women's college founded in 1873,
23 has an enrollment of more than 600 students and offers several unique degree programs,
24 including Womanist Religious Studies and Global Studies as well as dual degree
25 programs with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in various
26 engineering programs; and

27 Whereas, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, one of the three
28 original institutions of The University of North Carolina, was chartered in 1891 as an
29 educational facility for women and became a coeducational institution in 1964; and

30 Whereas, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, with an annual
31 enrollment of more than 17,150 students, offers undergraduate degrees in more than 100
32 areas of study and graduate degrees in more than 60 master's degree programs and
33 doctoral degrees in 18 programs of study, including the Department of Counseling and
34 Educational Development, which was ranked fourth in the nation by U.S. News and
35 World Report in 2008 and the School of Education, which was ranked 73rd, and
36 anticipates receiving more than \$37 million in research grants at the end of the current
37 fiscal year; and

38 Whereas, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University,
39 established in 1891 as a land-grant university, offers more than 99 undergraduate degree
40 programs, more than 50 master's degree programs, and doctorates in mechanical,
41 electrical, and industrial engineering, energy and environmental studies, and leadership
42 studies; and currently has an enrollment of 10,150 students; and

43 Whereas, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, a high
44 research activity institution ranked third in the UNC System in research funding at

1 \$41.5 million in 2007, has the largest School of Agriculture and Environmental
2 Sciences among all historically black colleges and universities with six nationally
3 accredited programs; and

4 Whereas, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro has been successful
5 in contributing to Greensboro's economy through its Office of Technology Transfer,
6 which has a mission to encourage innovation and disseminate knowledge; help
7 commercializing discoveries developed by faculty, students and staff; and assist faculty
8 in obtaining research support from corporate sponsors; and

9 Whereas, the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's
10 partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources
11 Conservation Service allowed for the relocation of a national technology center and a
12 remote sensing lab to Greensboro, which produced 80 high-tech jobs for the city; and

13 Whereas, the Gateway University Research Park, a joint collaboration
14 between North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and the University
15 of North Carolina at Greensboro, was developed to support research and economic
16 development within the Triad and, when fully completed, is expected to generate an
17 economic impact of \$50 million per year within the region; and

18 Whereas, Greensboro is a city of more than 244,610 residents living in over
19 200 neighborhoods; and

20 Whereas, today, interstate highways, rail lines, and an international airport
21 link Greensboro to regional, national, and global economies enabling the city to thrive
22 as a major transportation hub for central North Carolina and the southeastern United
23 States; and

24 Whereas, Greensboro continues to the present day to celebrate its rich
25 cultural, religious, ethnic, and racial diversity; and

26 Whereas, Greensboro is committed to an outstanding quality of life built
27 around its green spaces and healthy environment; and

28 Whereas, Greensboro's bicentennial is worthy of celebration; Now, therefore,
29 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

30 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the founders of the City of
31 Greensboro for the contributions they made to the State of North Carolina.

32 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its congratulations to the City
33 of Greensboro on its bicentennial and urges all North Carolinians to join the citizens of
34 the City of Greensboro in celebrating its bicentennial.

35 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
36 resolution to the Mayor of the City of Greensboro and the Chairs of the Greensboro
37 Bicentennial Commission.

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