

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 419

Sponsors: Representative Adams (Primary Sponsor).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to:

March 26, 2013

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF CHARLOTTE
2 HAWKINS BROWN WHILE OBSERVING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.

3 Whereas, Women's History Month commemorates and applauds the struggles and
4 accomplishments of women throughout the history of the United States; and

5 Whereas, in 1981, Congress enacted Public Law 97-28, requesting the President to
6 proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week"; and

7 Whereas, since 1987, Congress has passed legislation designating the month of
8 March as "Women's History Month"; and

9 Whereas, women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made
10 contributions to all facets of American life, including government, business, education, law,
11 science, medicine, and the arts; and

12 Whereas, some of North Carolina's women history makers include: Dolley Madison,
13 the first North Carolina native to become the wife of a United States president; Sarah Malinda
14 Pritchard Blalock, the State's only known female Civil War soldier; Sallie Walker Stockard, the
15 first woman to graduate from the University of North Carolina; Dr. Susan Dimock, the first
16 female member of the North Carolina Medical Society; Elreta Alexander Ralston, the State's
17 first female African-American district court judge; Willa B. Player, the first African-American
18 woman to serve as president of Bennett College; Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray, the first
19 African-American woman to become an Episcopal priest; Isabella Cannon, the first woman to
20 serve as mayor of a major North Carolina city; Katie Dorsett, the first African-American
21 woman to serve as Secretary of the State's Department of Administration; and Beverly Perdue,
22 the State's first female Lieutenant Governor and Governor; and

23 Whereas, despite the countless contributions women have made and continue to
24 make, their roles in history have consistently been inadequate in the teaching and studying of
25 American history; and

26 Whereas, during Women's History Month, it is important to commemorate the
27 women who have helped expand the opportunities of women, such as Charlotte Hawkins
28 Brown, an educator, author, and civil rights leader; and

29 Whereas, Charlotte Hawkins Brown was born on June 11, 1883, in Henderson,
30 North Carolina, and grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, after her family moved there in
31 1888; and

32 Whereas, in 1901, Charlotte Hawkins Brown returned to North Carolina to serve as
33 a teacher at the Bethany Institute, which was run by the American Missionary Association; and

34 Whereas, in 1902, Charlotte Hawkins Brown established the Alice Freeman Palmer
35 Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina; and



1 Whereas, Charlotte Hawkins Brown transformed the school into a fully accredited,
2 nationally recognized preparatory school that attracted students from across the United States
3 and other countries; and

4 Whereas, Charlotte Hawkins Brown retired in 1952, knowing that she had helped to
5 graduate over 1,000 students during her 50-year tenure as president, and died in 1961; and

6 Whereas, the Palmer Memorial Institute closed in 1971, and today serves as a State
7 historic site to honor the contributions of African-Americans and women; Now, therefore,
8 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

9 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Charlotte
10 Hawkins Brown and expresses its appreciation for her role in providing exceptional educational
11 opportunities for African-American women.

12 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives honors all the women named in this
13 resolution for their achievements and contributions to the State of North Carolina.

14 **SECTION 3.** The House of Representatives encourages the citizens of this State to
15 participate in activities that commemorate and honor women for their invaluable contributions
16 to our State and nation and to learn more about the significant roles women have had in the
17 creation of our history during Women's History Month.

18 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.