

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

**H
Resolution
Adopted**

Simple

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 2031*
Adopted 6/20/89**

Sponsors: Representatives Anderson, Lilley, and Perdue.

Referred to:

June 20, 1989

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE CITY OF NEW BERN FOR ITS
2 RECOGNITION AS AN "ALL AMERICA CITY".

3 Whereas, the City of New Bern was founded in 1710 by the Swiss and was
4 named for Bern, Switzerland; and

5 Whereas, the City of New Bern served as the first colonial capital and the
6 first capital of the State of North Carolina; and

7 Whereas, the City of New Bern thrived as a seaport and prospered with the
8 coming of the railroad in 1850; and

9 Whereas, by the 1970s, the City of New Bern had begun to face economic
10 hardships and other challenges; and

11 Whereas, the city suffered a loss of industry, tourism, and employment as a
12 result of an interstate highway system that bypassed the city, a decline in the railroad's
13 importance, a loss of air service, obsolete port areas, and the mechanization of farming;
14 and

15 Whereas, out-migration and suburban flight coupled with human services that
16 were not being met also plagued the city; and

17 Whereas, the citizens of the City of New Bern and Craven County sought to
18 change these conditions; and

19 Whereas, city and county leaders began working with the Chamber of
20 Commerce to form nonprofit organizations with professional staff to address the city's
21 problems; and

22 Whereas, one of these nonprofit organizations, Swiss Bear, which has over
23 700 members today, was instrumental in a number of projects, including having oil

1 tanks removed near the waterfront and enlisting the State and corporations to contribute
2 funds to transform the oil storage depot into a park; and

3 Whereas, these nonprofit corporations, with the hard work of volunteers, have
4 helped to renew the economic conditions of the City of New Bern and revitalize much
5 of the downtown area, including the opening of 54 new businesses in the central
6 business district that were once vacant stores, the addition of two new hotels, a 150 slip
7 marina, a \$185,000 farmers market, \$200,000,000 in new investment, a new industrial
8 park with five industries that have created 2,000 industrial jobs, and a countywide
9 unemployment rate below 4%; and

10 Whereas, an aggressive industrial development program and an equally
11 aggressive tourism promotion plan have helped to eliminate out-migration in Craven
12 County and contributed towards a growth in population; and

13 Whereas, the New Bern Historic Foundation was formed to take on the
14 responsibility of preserving and restoring many residential and commercial structures,
15 many of which predated the Revolution; and

16 Whereas, the New Bern Historic Foundation's efforts have resulted in the
17 restoration of 157 residential structures and 35 commercial buildings; and

18 Whereas, the City of New Bern is proud to have two residential districts and
19 an eight block area downtown placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

20 Whereas, Religious Community Services, which began with 12 churches,
21 representing different faiths and races and today has 28 churches, 500 volunteers, and
22 five ministries, formed to address human services, such as providing shelter and
23 emergency services and feeding the homeless and needy; and

24 Whereas, with a population just over 18,000, the City of New Bern's citizens
25 have raised millions of dollars to contribute towards improving their city; and

26 Whereas, volunteers, monetary donations, and community cooperation have
27 resulted in improving the community, human services, and the economic conditions of
28 the City of New Bern; and

29 Whereas, this community spirit had a direct influence in helping the City of
30 New Bern to receive the "All America City" award; and

31 Whereas, the National Civic League presented the City of New Bern with the
32 "All America City" award on May 13, 1989, at a banquet held in Chicago for award
33 recipients;

34 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

35 Section 1. The House of Representatives wishes to honor the City of New
36 Bern and its citizens for receiving the National Civic League's "All America City" award
37 on May 13, 1989.

38 Sec. 2. The House of Representatives wishes to extend its pride to the City of
39 New Bern and Craven County and to its citizens for bringing national recognition to the
40 State of North Carolina.

41 Sec. 3. The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to
42 the Mayor of the City of New Bern and to the President of the New Bern Chamber of
43 Commerce.

44 Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon adoption.