

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE RESOLUTION 1318*

Sponsors: Senator Barker.

Referred to:

June 19, 1989

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate:

33 Section 1. The Senate wishes to honor the City of New Bern and its citizens
34 for receiving the National Civic League's "All America City" award on May 13, 1989.

35 Sec. 2. The Senate wishes to extend its pride to the City of New Bern and
36 Craven County and to its citizens for bringing national recognition to the State of North
37 Carolina.

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

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