

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 65

Sponsors: Representatives Mavretic; Bowman, Buchanan, Colton, N. J. Crawford, Decker, Flaherty, Greenwood, R. Hunter, Kimsey, Lineberry, and Robinson.

Referred to: Rules.

February 13, 1991

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE JOHN C.
2 CAMPBELL FOLK SCHOOL AND THE PENLAND SCHOOL OF CRAFTS
3 AND DECLARING BOTH SCHOOLS AS NORTH CAROLINA ARTS AND
4 CRAFTS RESOURCES.

5 Whereas, North Carolina is the location of two of the nation's most unique
6 cultural resources, the John C. Campbell Folk School and the Penland School of Crafts;
7 and

8 Whereas, the John C. Campbell Folk School, located in Brasstown, began as
9 an idea of John C. and Olive Dame Campbell to revitalize rural western North Carolina
10 based on a Danish folk school theory; and

11 Whereas, in 1925, with donations of land, labor, materials, and funds from
12 families in Brasstown Olive Dame Campbell and Marguerite Butler Bidstrup began the
13 John C. Campbell Folk School; and

14 Whereas, in the years to follow, the John C. Campbell Folk School created
15 agricultural demonstration projects, the first area farmers' credit union, health and
16 nutrition programs, a library, a residential school, a cannery, a dairy, agricultural
17 cooperatives, cottage industries, and later an internationally recognized traditional
18 Appalachian craft school; and

19 Whereas, the John C. Campbell Folk School was designated as an Historic
20 District by the National Register of Historic Places; and

21 Whereas, the John C. Campbell Folk School pioneered such programs as job
22 training for veterans in the late 1940s, a literacy program in the mid-1950s, a

1 community cannery in the 1960s, and a mentor-apprenticeship crafts program in 1990;
2 and

3 Whereas, the John C. Campbell Folk School heritage arts and folklore
4 program plays a critical role in recognizing and preserving North Carolina's traditions
5 and properly presenting and interpreting the character of North Carolinians to a larger,
6 national public; and

7 Whereas, in 1990, over 15,000 people attended the John C. Campbell Folk
8 School's outreach programs in public schools and communities, providing a critical
9 reminder to the residents of this State of the uniqueness of North Carolina's mountain
10 traditions; and

11 Whereas, the John C. Campbell Folk School serves as a center for youth,
12 civic, church, professional, and business groups from western North Carolina and across
13 the southeastern region of the United States; and

14 Whereas, the John C. Campbell Folk School supports and markets the work
15 of over 200 of the region's finest traditional craftspeople; and

16 Whereas, the John C. Campbell Folk School serves as an important point of
17 interest, attracting over 50,000 travellers in 1990; and

18 Whereas, since 1985, of 237 existing craft schools, the John C. Campbell
19 Folk School has had the most students and offered the most courses in craft, music, and
20 dance; and

21 Whereas, the John C. Campbell Folk School is one of North Carolina's most
22 unique cultural resources and a national resource for traditional crafts, music, dance,
23 and folklore, and is the only school of its kind in the United States; and

24 Whereas, in 1923, the Penland School of Crafts was begun as the Penland
25 School of Handicrafts, by Lucy Morgan in order to revive hand-weaving and to provide
26 women in rural western North Carolina with additional income from the sale of their
27 products; and

28 Whereas, the Penland School of Crafts, incorporated in 1929 and located in
29 Mitchell County, promotes individual and artistic growth in crafts by providing
30 programs and instructional facilities that encourage genuine innovation, knowledge of
31 the history of applied design, and excellence in craftsmanship, and by preserving the
32 traditions of folk arts and the heritage of improvisation; and

33 Whereas, the Penland School of Crafts offers classes in book arts, ceramics,
34 drawing, fiber and surface design, glass, metals, paper photography, printmaking, and
35 wood; and

36 Whereas, through the North Carolina Office of Public Instruction, Penland
37 School of Crafts offers teacher certificate renewal credit and a special program for
38 North Carolina visual arts teachers; and

39 Whereas, through the Greater University Systems of North Carolina and
40 Tennessee, students may earn graduate and undergraduate academic credits by attending
41 the Penland School of Crafts; and

42 Whereas, in 1989, the Penland School of Crafts had students from 49 of
43 North Carolina's counties; and

1 Whereas, over 150 instructors offer classes during each year at the Penland
2 School of Crafts, coming from all over the United States and occasionally from other
3 countries; and

4 Whereas, the Penland School of Crafts offers a special one-half tuition
5 program to residents of Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties; and

6 Whereas, over 100 professional craft studios have been established in Avery,
7 Mitchell, and Yancey counties as a direct influence of the Penland School of Crafts,
8 which has a strong positive effect on tourism and the local economy; and

9 Whereas, in 1987, the Penland School of Crafts received the Mountain
10 Heritage Award from Western Carolina University for outstanding contributions to the
11 preservation and interpretation of the heritage and culture of Western North Carolina
12 and the Gold Medal in Education for long-time service from the American Craft
13 Council; and

14 Whereas, it is important to acknowledge the contributions of the John C.
15 Campbell Folk School and the Penland School of Crafts and to encourage the citizens of
16 this State to take advantage of them;

17 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

18 Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina wishes to honor the
19 founders of the John C. Campbell Folk School and the Penland School of Crafts.

20 Sec. 2. The General Assembly of North Carolina wishes to recognize the
21 John C. Campbell Folk School and the Penland School of Crafts as North Carolina arts
22 and crafts resources and to encourage the citizens of this State to take advantage of
23 them.

24 Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
25 to the directors of the John C. Campbell Folk School and the Penland School of Crafts.

26 Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.