

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1068

Sponsors: Representatives Hayes; Barbee and Tallent.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House.

May 29, 1995

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF STEPHEN CABARRUS
2 AND THE CITY OF CONCORD AS IT PREPARES FOR ITS BICENTENNIAL
3 OBSERVANCE.

4 Whereas, Cabarrus County was formed on December 29, 1792, from
5 Mecklenburg County and was named in honor of Stephen Cabarrus of Chowan County,
6 the distinguished Speaker of the House of Commons during that time; and

7 Whereas, following the formation of Cabarrus County, there arose a dispute
8 among the residents of the county as to the location of a seat of government for the
9 county; and

10 Whereas, Stephen Cabarrus used his good offices to assist the competing
11 factions to compromise their differences and agree on a central site for the location of
12 the public buildings; and

13 Whereas, the 1795 General Assembly then authorized the County Court of
14 Pleas and Quarter Sessions to appoint Commissioners to lay off streets and lots at the
15 location which had been agreed upon, and to establish there a town to be known as
16 Concord in recognition of the "concord", or agreement, between the parties over the
17 location of the county seat; and

18 Whereas, the new town became a center not only of government, but of
19 business and social life for Cabarrus County; its early residents erected a courthouse,
20 mercantile establishments, and homes; and

21 Whereas, those early residents brought with them a strong devotion to their
22 churches, and established congregations which still serve the people of Concord; and

1 Whereas, much of the early history of Concord is written in the records of
2 those churches; and

3 Whereas, the young men and women of Concord have never hesitated to
4 answer their country's call to the colors, and have served with honor and distinction in
5 every armed conflict from the War of 1812 through the Desert Storm Operation, and
6 many still serve with valor in the armed forces of their nation; and

7 Whereas, the citizens of Concord have cherished a love of education from the
8 earliest days of the city; its residents continue to support the outstanding public and
9 private schools which educate their children; and

10 Whereas, through the efforts of General Rufus Barringer, a distinguished son
11 of Concord and a Representative in the 1848 General Assembly, the route of the North
12 Carolina Railroad ran near Concord, and led to the economic growth of the city
13 following the War Between the States; and

14 Whereas, in 1839, leading merchants and residents of Concord envisioned the
15 future of the textile industry in the area, and organized the first cotton mill in Cabarrus
16 County; and

17 Whereas, in 1877, Captain J. M. Odell purchased that small mill and began
18 building his great mills on that same site; and

19 Whereas, in 1887, James William Cannon built his first mill in Concord and
20 erected on those early foundations a great empire of looms; and

21 Whereas, in 1895, Warren Coleman, an African-American merchant in
22 Concord, built the first textile mill operated by African-American workers in the South;
23 and

24 Whereas, Captain Daniel Branson Coltrane brought modern banking to
25 Concord through his management of its first bank, and whereas, L. D. Coltrane brought
26 modern communications to the city through the Concord Telephone Company; and

27 Whereas, the City of Concord has great textile and tobacco manufacturing
28 plants, together with other modern manufacturing and distribution facilities representing
29 companies in national and international commerce, the Cabarrus Memorial Hospital, an
30 outstanding medical care facility, and nationally known motor sports facilities, which
31 collectively host over a half-million racing fans from around the nation; and

32 Whereas, the residents of the City of Concord cherish their rich heritage as
33 symbolized by the lovely homes of the Historic District and in the Historic 1876
34 Courthouse, but envision and celebrate a future of continuing economic growth for the
35 city and boundless opportunities for its residents; and

36 Whereas, a bicentennial committee is planning a celebration and observance
37 for the entire month of April 1996 to honor the inherited values of patriotism, honesty,
38 love of family, and strong religious beliefs upon which the foundation of the city is
39 built, to collect and preserve the early records of the city, and to publish an account of
40 its history;

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

42 Section 1. The General Assembly wishes to honor the citizens of the City of
43 Concord as they plan and celebrate their bicentennial. The General Assembly further

1 wishes to honor the memory of Stephen Cabarrus for his role in helping to establish the
2 city.

3 Sec. 2. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
4 to the City of Concord and to its Bicentennial Committee.

5 Sec. 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.