

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1489

Sponsors: Senator Preston.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 27, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF
2 MOREHEAD CITY BY COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH
3 ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHEPARD'S POINT LAND PURCHASE.

4 Whereas, the Town of Morehead City is named for Governor John Motley
5 Morehead, who envisioned a "great commercial city"; and

6 Whereas, in the 1850s the Shepard's Point Land Company purchased 600
7 acres of land on the tip of the eastern peninsula that is now the site of Morehead City;
8 and

9 Whereas, in 1857, a public auction was held, which sold 150 lots in
10 Morehead City; and

11 Whereas, the last stop of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad was
12 constructed in Shepard's Point, which connected Morehead City to the rest of North
13 Carolina; and

14 Whereas, three days after the completion of the railroad in 1858, every
15 property parcel in Morehead City and the surrounding area was sold; and

16 Whereas, on February 20, 1861, the Town of Morehead City, originally
17 known as the City of Morehead, was officially incorporated by the North Carolina
18 General Assembly; and

19 Whereas, Morehead City's first officers included Bridges Arendell, Jr. as
20 Mayor and David S. Jones, J.W. Collins, and William H. Cunniggim, Jr. as
21 Commissioners; and

22 Whereas, in 1862, the War Between the States disrupted commerce and the
23 port declined along with the town's population when Morehead City was occupied by
24 Union troops; and

25 Whereas, Morehead City began to rebound in the 1880s with the completion
26 of the Atlantic Hotel, which had a train depot entrance, grand ballroom, piers, sailing
27 and ferry services to the beaches of Bogue Banks luring tourists to the area and helping
28 establish Morehead City as the "Summer Capital by the Sea"; and

1 Whereas, the great hurricane of 1899, forced fishermen from nearby
2 Shackleford Banks, Diamond City, and other fishing settlements to move their houses
3 onto the mainland in the area they called the "Promised Land"; and

4 Whereas, the advent of available ice made shipping of fish, produce from
5 nearby farms, and other products by rail to outside markets very effective; and

6 Whereas, the railroad remained important to Morehead City in the 20th
7 century for businesses and individuals; and

8 Whereas, even today, the railroad plays an important role in keeping the port
9 busy with shipments by rail to send abroad; and

10 Whereas, until service ended in 1950, the railroad passenger service
11 encouraged the tourist business of Morehead City and Atlantic Beach; and

12 Whereas, Morehead City is situated on North Carolina's "Crystal Coast" and
13 is home to one of the State's two seaports; and

14 Whereas, Morehead City is also home to Carteret Community College, as
15 well as research institutes operated by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
16 North Carolina State University, and Duke University; and

17 Whereas, Morehead City is the largest town in Carteret County with a
18 population of over 7,800 residents; and

19 Whereas, in May 2007, Morehead City will commemorate the anniversary of
20 the Shepard's Point Land Purchase and celebrate 150 years of culture and heritage; and

21 Whereas, plans have been made to celebrate the Town's sesquicentennial
22 throughout the month of May, including a Sesquicentennial Celebration Week, May 12
23 through 19, 2007; and

24 Whereas, Morehead City's 150th anniversary is worthy of recognition and
25 celebration; Now, therefore,

26 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

27 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of the founders of
28 the Town of Morehead City on the Town's 150th anniversary.

29 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly joins the citizens of the Town of
30 Morehead City in celebrating the Town's 150th anniversary.

31 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
32 resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Morehead City.

33 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.