

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

H.J.R. 1228
Jun 25, 2012
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30652-LG-210A (06/22)

Sponsors: Representative Spear.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF EDENTON
2 ON THE OCCASION OF THE TOWN'S THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

3 Whereas, an act of the North Carolina Assembly adopted in 1712 called for the
4 surveying of what is now Edenton; and

5 Whereas, Charles Eden was appointed Governor of North Carolina on July 13,
6 1713, and arrived later to create the first seat of North Carolina government at Edenton where
7 the legislature began to meet in 1722; and

8 Whereas, building lots were sold and construction was begun on private and public
9 facilities as early as 1714; and

10 Whereas, Edenton prospered to such an extent that the plotted lots had to be doubled
11 in size by 1722; and

12 Whereas, the continuing growth led to the 1767 construction of the Chowan County
13 Courthouse, situated where first platted in 1712, and which now stands as the oldest
14 continuously used courthouse in the nation and is recognized as a National Historic Landmark;
15 and

16 Whereas, the "Edenton Tea Party" of October 25, 1774, became one of the first
17 instances of colonial American women acting in an overt political manner; and

18 Whereas, Edentonian Joseph Hewes signed the Declaration of Independence; and

19 Whereas, the citizens of Edenton selected Hugh Williamson to attend the
20 Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia where he signed the proposed United States
21 Constitution; and

22 Whereas, Samuel Johnston, also of Edenton and a governor of North Carolina,
23 presided over both State conventions called to ratify the United States Constitution; and

24 Whereas, James Iredell, a lawyer from Edenton, served on the first United States
25 Supreme Court; and

26 Whereas, Edenton was the home of the Badham family of African-American
27 architects, builders, and carpenters: Miles Badham I, his son Hannibal Badham, Sr., and
28 Hannibal's sons Hannibal Badham, Jr., and Miles Badham II, whose designs and constructions
29 stand to this day; and

30 Whereas, Edenton was the home of Harriet Jacobs, whose memoirs *Incidents in the*
31 *Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself*, self-published in 1861 under the pseudonym Linda
32 Brent, received acclaim and helped call attention to the plight of the enslaved; and

33 Whereas, during the Civil War, Edentonians created their own defensive unit by
34 melting their church and courthouse bells to make the cannons for Edenton Bell Battery, which
35 saw service in the war; and



1 Whereas, Edenton's long history as a colonial port and its more modern protection
2 of the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse contribute to the history of the Albemarle Sound and
3 waterways of North Carolina; and

4 Whereas, in 1918 the people of Edenton, fearful that a significant part of our State's
5 heritage was endangered, created an organization which became the "Cupola House
6 Association" to defend against the irrevocable loss of this historically important dwelling, the
7 first such act of preservation by private citizens of North Carolina and one of the first in the
8 nation; and

9 Whereas, the General Assembly of North Carolina created the Edenton Historical
10 Commission in 1961 as evidence of the unique role Edenton and Chowan County play in the
11 preservation and perpetuation of the history of the colony and the State; and

12 Whereas, much of Edenton was declared a National Historic District in 1973; and

13 Whereas, Historic Edenton State Historic Site, administered by the North Carolina
14 Division of State Historic Sites and Properties of the North Carolina Department of Cultural
15 Resources, preserves and interprets the history of Edenton; Now, therefore,
16 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

17 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of the founders and early
18 residents of the Town of Edenton for their contributions to their community, the colony of
19 North Carolina, the State of North Carolina, and the nation.

20 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends sincere good wishes to the current
21 residents of the Town of Edenton on the occasion of the Town's 300th Anniversary, November
22 6, 2012; embraces with enthusiasm the Town's plan to celebrate the occasion through 2013; and
23 encourages the citizens of the State to join Edenton and Chowan County in demonstrating
24 respect for and pride in our history and heritage. The General Assembly further acknowledges
25 the Town's dedication to the preservation of the historic buildings that embody the history of
26 North Carolina and equally to the perpetuation of the stories of the leaders who have made such
27 contributions to the colony, the State, and nation.

28 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
29 resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Edenton.

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