

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 813
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/16/03

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 31, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF BONNIE E.
2 CONE, FOUNDER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT
3 CHARLOTTE.

4 Whereas, Bonnie E. Cone was born in Lodge, South Carolina, on June 22,
5 1907, to Charles Cone and Addie Harter Cone; and

6 Whereas, Bonnie Cone graduated magna cum laude from Coker College in
7 1928 and earned a masters degree in mathematics from Duke University in 1941; and

8 Whereas, Bonnie Cone spent much of her life as an educator, inspiring
9 countless students to excel in science; and

10 Whereas, in 1943, Bonnie Cone was recruited to teach math at Duke
11 University, where she was the only female teacher on Duke's west campus; and

12 Whereas, in 1945, Bonnie Cone worked in the Naval Ordnance Lab in
13 Washington, D.C., as a statistical analyst studying mine detection reports; and

14 Whereas, Bonnie Cone returned to North Carolina in 1946 and began
15 teaching at Central High School in Charlotte; and

16 Whereas, during this time, Bonnie Cone also served as a part-time math
17 instructor at the University of North Carolina's Charlotte Center, a night school
18 established to aid veterans of World War II; and

19 Whereas, in 1948, Bonnie Cone became the director of the Center; and

20 Whereas, Bonnie Cone worked diligently on behalf of the Center, aiding in
21 the conversion of the Center into Charlotte College, a two-year institution; raising funds
22 to buy land for a separate campus; obtaining support from the City's business
23 community to support the College; garnering approval from the City's voters for a
24 special tax to maintain the College; and lobbying for the expansion of the College's
25 curriculum into a four-year college; and

26 Whereas, in 1965, Bonnie Cone's hard work on behalf of the College was
27 recognized and rewarded when Charlotte College was made a part of the State's
28 university system; and

1 Whereas, Bonnie Cone served as acting Chancellor of the University of North
2 Carolina at Charlotte in 1966, and for a number of years served as Vice-Chancellor for
3 student affairs and community relations; and

4 Whereas, after retiring, Bonnie Cone continued to work vigorously on behalf
5 of the University, helping with fundraising and building alumni support; and

6 Whereas, Bonnie Cone was truly proud of the University she founded and
7 was greatly honored when the University named its Student Union after her and
8 established five Distinguished Professorships in her name; and

9 Whereas, Bonnie Cone served as a trustee of Coker College and Belmont
10 Abbey College, as a member of the Board of Visitors at both Davidson College and
11 Johnson C. Smith University, and as the first female President of the Southern
12 Association of Junior Colleges; and

13 Whereas, Bonnie Cone was a supporter of various organizations, including
14 the Charlotte Symphony, the Charlotte Opera, the Boy Scouts, the YWCA, the
15 Children's Nature Museum, Habitat for Humanity, the United Arts Council, and the
16 Charlotte Central Lions Club; and

17 Whereas, Bonnie Cone was the recipient of numerous awards and
18 recognitions, including the National Conference of Christians and Jews Silver
19 Medallion for citizenship in 1962; the 26th Judicial District Bar Association's Law Day
20 Liberty Bell Award in 1966; and the North Carolina Award from the Board of
21 Governors of The University of North Carolina in 1982, of which she was the first
22 female recipient; and

23 Whereas, Bonnie Cone received honorary degrees from Davidson College,
24 Coker College, Belmont Abbey College, Queens College, Mt. Holyoke College, Wake
25 Forest University, Pfeiffer University, Duke University, Lander University, and the
26 University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and

27 Whereas, Bonnie Cone lived by the motto: "I am only one, but I am one. I
28 cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do, and what I
29 ought to do, by the Grace of God, I will"; and

30 Whereas, Bonnie Cone died on March 8, 2003, leaving a legacy of
31 commitment and dedication to the education of the people of this State and nation;
32 Now, therefore,

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

34 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Bonnie E. Cone
35 and expresses the gratitude of the citizens of this State for the service she rendered and
36 the contributions she made in founding the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

37 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly expresses its deepest sympathy to the
38 family of Bonnie E. Cone for the loss of a beloved family member.

39 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
40 resolution to the family of Bonnie E. Cone and to the Chancellor of the University of
41 North Carolina at Charlotte.

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