

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 161

Sponsors: Senators Berger of Rockingham; Apodaca, Bingham, Brock, Brown, East, Goodall, Hartsell, Hunt, Jacumin, Pittenger, Stevens, and Tillman.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 16, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND INFLUENCE OF NORTH
2 CAROLINA MUSICIAN AND SINGER CHARLIE POOLE.

3 Whereas, Charles Cleveland "Charlie" Poole was born in Randolph County,
4 North Carolina, on March 22, 1892; and

5 Whereas, Charlie Poole learned to play the banjo at an early age and, after
6 suffering a damaged right hand in a baseball accident, he transcended his injury and
7 developed a unique three-finger banjo picking style that contained the critical elements
8 necessary for the later development of bluegrass music; and

9 Whereas, like so many of his contemporaries during the early 20th century in
10 the South, Charlie Poole followed the jobs available in the textile industry, and moved
11 to the important textile complex at Spray, North Carolina, now known as Eden, around
12 1918; and

13 Whereas, in the mill towns of Spray, Leaksville, and Draper, Charlie Poole
14 discovered a rich musical community, fed in part by the provision of professional music
15 teachers for workers by mill management; and

16 Whereas, upon arrival in Spray, Charlie Poole met Posey Rorer, an
17 accomplished fiddler, and later, Norman Woodlieff, a guitarist; and

18 Whereas, this trio of musicians formed an historic musical group named the
19 North Carolina Ramblers; and

20 Whereas, the North Carolina Ramblers, led by Charlie Poole, journeyed to
21 New York City to make a recording for Columbia Records in June, 1925; and

22 Whereas, the band's first recording, "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down" sold an
23 astonishing 102,000 copies during the beginnings of the country music record industry;
24 and

25 Whereas, the North Carolina Ramblers, with later replacement artists Roy
26 Harvey and Lonnie Austin, among others, but always led by Charlie Poole, continued to
27 produce hit recordings until 1930 when the Great Depression began; and

28 Whereas, Charlie Poole, by developing a unique style of banjo playing, and
29 by incorporating the hard times of his era into his music, and by producing a cohesive

1 band sound that influenced generations of later musicians, became the father of country
2 music, paving the way with his success for later influential artists such as the Carter
3 Family and Jimmie Rodgers; and

4 Whereas, Charlie Poole's music continues to be enjoyed today by a
5 worldwide audience, thanks to the efforts of Poole biographer Kinney Rorrer and labels
6 like County Records; and

7 Whereas, Columbia/Legacy, 80 years after his first recording session in July
8 1925, is releasing a three CD set produced by Henry "Hank" Sapoznik, which will be
9 available for the first time during the 10th Annual Charlie Poole Music Festival in the
10 City of Eden on May 20-21, 2005; and

11 Whereas, as fellow North Carolinians, we recognize and salute the
12 far-reaching musical influence and genius reflected in the life of Charlie Poole; Now,
13 therefore,

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

15 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Charlie
16 Poole and acknowledges his contributions and influence on country music. The General
17 Assembly further encourages the citizens of this State to participate in activities
18 commemorating the contributions of this extraordinary musician and singer during the
19 Charlie Poole Music Festival, which will be held on May 20-21, 2005, in the City of
20 Eden.

21 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
22 resolution to the chair of the Charlie Poole Music Festival.

23 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.