

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 321\***

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Sponsors: Representatives Insko; Bordsen and Folwell.

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

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February 22, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ERIC  
2 SCHOPLER, A PIONEER IN THE TREATMENT OF AUTISM.

3 Whereas, Eric Schopler was born on February 8, 1927, in Furth, Germany, to  
4 Ernst Schopler and Erna Oppenheimer Schopler; and

5 Whereas, Eric Schopler and his family moved to the United States in 1938;  
6 and

7 Whereas, Eric Schopler grew up in Rochester, New York, and, after  
8 graduating from high school, served in the United States Army; and

9 Whereas, Eric Schopler completed his education at the University of Chicago,  
10 earning a bachelors degree in 1949, a masters degree in social service administration in  
11 1955, and a doctorate degree in clinical child psychology in 1964; and

12 Whereas, Eric Schopler's early career included serving as a family counselor  
13 in Rochester, New York, from 1955 to 1958, as the Acting Chief Psychiatric Social  
14 Worker at the Emma P. Bradley Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island, from 1958 to  
15 1960, and as a therapist and investigator for the Treatment and Research Center for  
16 Childhood Schizophrenia in Chicago from 1960 to 1964; and

17 Whereas, Eric Schopler served on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry  
18 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Medicine from 1964 to  
19 2005; and

20 Whereas, during his tenure in the Department of Psychiatry, Eric Schloper  
21 served as an associate professor from 1966 to 1973, as a professor from 1973 to 2005,  
22 as the Director of the Child Research Project from 1966 to 1972, as the Chief  
23 Psychologist from 1987 to 1999, and as an Associate Chair for Developmental  
24 Disabilities from 1992 to 1996; and

25 Whereas, Eric Schopler's interest and research in autism led to the  
26 development of the first statewide program for the treatment of autism known as  
27 Division TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related  
28 Communication-handicapped Children), which continues to serve as a model for autism  
29 treatment programs around the world; and

1           Whereas, Eric Schopler served as co-director of Division TEACCH from  
2 1972 to 1976 and as director from 1976 to 1993; and

3           Whereas, Eric Schopler wrote more than 200 books and articles on autism  
4 spectrum disorders and served as the Editor of the Journal of Autism and  
5 Developmental Disorders and as a member of the editorial board of the Early Childhood  
6 Special Education, Schizophrenia Bulletin; and

7           Whereas, Eric Schopler was a member of numerous professional  
8 organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science,  
9 American Association on Mental Deficiency, and the Society for Research in Child  
10 Development; and

11           Whereas, Eric Schopler served on the advisory board of Bitter Sweet Farms,  
12 Toledo, Ohio; Linwood Children's Center, Inc., Ellicott, Maryland; Autism Society of  
13 North Carolina, Inc.; and the Autism Society of America; and

14           Whereas, Eric Schopler received countless honors and awards for his work,  
15 including the American Psychiatric Association's Gold Achievement Award for Child  
16 Research Project in 1972, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's O. Max  
17 Gardner Award for contributions to human welfare in 1985, the North Carolina Award  
18 in 1993, the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished  
19 Contributions to the Advancement of Knowledge and Service in 1997, the Autism  
20 Society of North Carolina's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005, and the American  
21 Psychological Foundation's Gold Medal for Life Achievement in the Application of  
22 Psychology in 2006; and

23           Whereas, Eric Schopler died on July 7, 2006, leaving to mourn his loss, his  
24 wife, Margaret Schopler; three children, Bobby, Tom, and Susie; and seven  
25 grandchildren; Now, therefore,

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

27           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Eric  
28 Schopler and expresses its appreciation for his invaluable contributions to autism  
29 research and treatment.

30           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the  
31 family of Eric Schopler for the loss of a distinguished family member.

32           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
33 resolution to the family of Eric Schopler.

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