

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1664

Sponsors: Representative Redwine.

Referred to: Rules, Appointments and Calendar.

June 23, 1992

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF GENERAL BENJAMIN
2 SMITH ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF SOUTHPORT.

3 Whereas, General Benjamin Smith, who served under General George
4 Washington during the Revolutionary War and who was elected Governor of North
5 Carolina in 1811, was one of five commissioners charged by the General Assembly in
6 1792 to create a new town in the vicinity of Fort Johnson; and

7 Whereas, the new town established near Fort Johnson was named Smithville
8 after General Benjamin Smith; and

9 Whereas, the town of Smithville offered early settlers traditional river type
10 occupations, such as river pilot and fisherman; and

11 Whereas, the town of Smithville developed and prospered, and became the
12 county seat in 1808, where it remained the county seat until the 1970s; and

13 Whereas, because of the lack of inland trade routes, the town of Smithville
14 never became a major port, but the town became a fishing village and a popular summer
15 resort; and

16 Whereas, after the Civil War, the town of Smithville began to grow and
17 flourish; and

18 Whereas, in 1887, the name of the town was changed from Smithville to
19 Southport, supposedly because it was the most southerly harbor in North Carolina; and

20 Whereas, over the years, the city of Southport has made great progress; and

21 Whereas, in 1992, the city of Southport is celebrating its bicentennial;

22 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

1 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of General Benjamin
2 Smith and recognizes him for his role in founding the city of Southport.

3 Sec. 2. The General Assembly extends its congratulations to the city of
4 Southport on its bicentennial, and urges all North Carolinians to join the citizens of the
5 city of Southport in celebrating its bicentennial.

6 Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall send a certified copy of this resolution to
7 the mayor of the city of Southport and to the chairman of the Brunswick County Board
8 of Commissioners.

9 Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.