

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2774
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/26/08

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 29, 2008

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF FRANK
2 WARNER CAPRA, JR., FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT
3 OF THE FILM INDUSTRY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

4 Whereas, Frank Warner Capra, Jr., was born on March 20, 1934, in Los
5 Angeles, California, to Frank Capra, Sr., and Lucille Rayburn Warner Capra; and

6 Whereas, Frank Capra, Jr., studied math and science at California Institute of
7 Technology prior to transferring to Pomona College, where he graduated with a
8 bachelor's degree in geology in 1955; and

9 Whereas, after college, Frank Capra, Jr., worked for Hughes Tool Co., a
10 company owned by Howard Hughes, as a writer and director of technical documentaries
11 and later spent three years in the Army Signal Corps making training films and teaching
12 combat motion picture photography; and

13 Whereas, Frank Capra, Jr., would soon join his father, a noted Hollywood
14 director, whose best-known film was "It's a Wonderful Life" in the film industry; and

15 Whereas, Frank Capra, Jr., began his Hollywood career during the 1960s,
16 working with his father on "Pocketful of Miracles" (1961) and serving as the associate
17 producer of several films, including three "Planet of the Apes" sequels, "Marooned,"
18 and "Play It Again, Sam"; and

19 Whereas, Frank Capra, Jr., served as the producer of several other films,
20 including "Billy Jack Goes to Washington" (1977), "Born Again" (1978), and "The
21 Black Marble" (1980), and as the second assistant director of several television shows,
22 including "Dennis the Menace," "Gunsmoke," and "Hazel"; and

23 Whereas, Frank Capra, Jr., served as president and chief executive officer of
24 Avco Embassy Pictures from 1981 to 1982; and

25 Whereas, on a scouting mission in 1983 for the Stephen King horror film,
26 "Firestarter," Frank Capra, Jr., settled on a location in Wilmington, North Carolina, and
27 later persuaded the film's executive producer, Dino De Laurentiis, to build a studio
28 facility in the area; and

1 Whereas, when the film studio changed ownership in 1996, Frank Capra, Jr.,
2 became president of what became known as EUE/Screen Gems Studios, which today is
3 the largest film production center east of California; and

4 Whereas, many films and television series were filmed at EUE/Screen Gems
5 Studios while Frank Capra, Jr., served as president, including "Black Knight" (2001),
6 "Domestic Disturbance" (2001), "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" (2002), "A
7 Walk to Remember" (2002), "Dawson's Creek," and "One Tree Hill"; and

8 Whereas, in addition to his duties at EUE/Screen Gems Studios, Frank Capra,
9 Jr., served as the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Film Studies at the University of
10 North Carolina at Wilmington and served as a member of the North Carolina Film
11 Council and The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Science and the Director's Guild
12 of America; and

13 Whereas, for several years, Frank Capra, Jr., screened his family's 35mm
14 print of "It's a Wonderful Life" at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington
15 during the month of December; and

16 Whereas, Frank Capra, Jr., was well respected in his adopted City of
17 Wilmington and served as the Grand Marshall of the North Carolina Azalea Festival in
18 1995 and was named the 2007 Citizen of the Year by the University of North Carolina
19 at Wilmington; and

20 Whereas, Frank Capra, Jr., died on December 19, 2007, leaving to cherish his
21 memory his wife, Deborah Capra of Santa Barbara, California; two sons, Frank Capra
22 III, of Studio City, California, and Jonathan Capra of Wilmington, North Carolina; a
23 daughter, Christina Capra, of Santa Barbara, California; two siblings, Lucille Capra of
24 Traverse City, Michigan, and Tom Capra of Palm Desert, California; and one
25 grandchild; Now, therefore,

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

27 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Frank
28 Warner Capra, Jr., for his contributions in helping to develop the film industry in North
29 Carolina.

30 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the
31 family of Frank Warner Capra, Jr., for the loss of its distinguished family member.

32 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
33 resolution to the family of Frank Warner Capra, Jr.

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