

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

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR80406-LG-566 (4/18)**

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Sponsors: Representatives Samuelson, Tillis, Killian, and Tarleton (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE  
2 MUSICAL GROUP KNOWN AS THE BRIARHOPPERS, WHICH PROVIDED  
3 FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT FROM THE STUDIOS OF CHARLOTTE'S WBT  
4 RADIO, AND HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER BRIARHOPPER  
5 MEMBERS AND THE GROUP'S FOUNDER.

6 Whereas, in 1935, Charles Crutchfield, a radio announcer for Charlotte radio  
7 station WBT, formed a musical group known as the Briarhoppers (WBT Briarhoppers)  
8 to satisfy a potential advertiser, Consolidated Drug Trade Company of Chicago; and

9 Whereas, the Briarhoppers performed bluegrass and country music and  
10 became a very popular group attracting scores of fans; and

11 Whereas, the first group of Briarhoppers were a Tin Pan Alley musical group  
12 that lasted from 1935 to 1941; and

13 Whereas, the Briarhoppers became a string band in 1941 and, with the  
14 exception of a short period of inactivity, have continuously performed as a group,  
15 earning the title of the longest performing bluegrass and country ensemble still active in  
16 the music field today; and

17 Whereas, many legendary musicians performed as a member of the  
18 Briarhoppers, including Charles Crutchfield, Johnny McAllister, Big Bill Davis, Don  
19 White, Billie Burton Daniel, Eleanor Bryan Fields, Jane Bartlett, Clarence Etters,  
20 Thorpe Westerfield, Mildred and Floyd, the Oklahoma Sweethearts, Fred Kirby, Claude  
21 Casey, Roy "Whitey" Grant, Arval Hogan, Nat Richardson, Sam Poplin, Homer  
22 Christopher, Shannon Grayson, Fiddlin' Hank Warren, the Tennessee Ramblers, Homer  
23 "Pappy" Sherrill, Dwight Moody, David Deese, and David Moody; and

24 Whereas, many talented artists appeared on the Briarhopper family  
25 entertainment show, including the Original Carter Family, Bill and Charlie Monroe,  
26 Uncle Dave Macon, Roy Acuff, and Little Jimmy Dickens, and classical musicians Jose  
27 Iturbi and David Rubinoff; and

1           Whereas, the Briarhoppers entertained the troops during World War II and  
2 polio victims during the 1940s and performed on Public Radio's "Prairie Home  
3 Companion" and at the 1984 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee; and

4           Whereas, the Briarhoppers participated in programs throughout the North  
5 Carolina school system under the State-funded project "The Original Briarhoppers  
6 School Program"; and

7           Whereas, over the years, the Briarhoppers have been recognized for their  
8 contributions to the cultural and musical heritage of North Carolina and have received  
9 the North Carolina Folk Heritage Award in 2003 and the Brown-Hudson Award from  
10 the North Carolina Folklore Society in 2002; and

11           Whereas, the Briarhoppers were featured in an exhibit at the Levine Museum  
12 of the New South in Charlotte and in "The Charlotte Country Music Story", produced  
13 by the North Carolina Folk Society and Spirit Square in Charlotte; and

14           Whereas, the Briarhoppers are the subject of a new book written by Thomas  
15 and Lucy Warlick, which covers their history; and

16           Whereas, only a few members of the early Briarhopper family survive today,  
17 including Billie Burton Daniel, a resident of Wilmington and a 70-year member of the  
18 group, Eleanor Bryan Fields, a member of the 1941 string band, and Roy "Whitey"  
19 Grant, a Briarhopper since 1941; and

20           Whereas, the Briarhoppers deserve a heartfelt thanks for entertaining the  
21 citizens of North Carolina and the world for more than 70 years; Now, therefore,  
22 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

23           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses its appreciation and gratitude  
24 to the Briarhoppers for their contributions to the State's cultural heritage.

25           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Charles  
26 Crutchfield, founder of the Briarhoppers, as well as the other former members of the  
27 Briarhoppers who have died.

28           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution  
29 to the family of Charles Crutchfield, WBT/WBTV of Charlotte, the Levine Museum of  
30 the New South, and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

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