

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR50760-LG-617 (7/25)

Sponsors: Representative Rapp.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF MARS HILL
2 COLLEGE DURING THE COLLEGE'S ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH
3 ANNIVERSARY.

4 Whereas, Mars Hill College was founded in 1856 by pioneer families that
5 settled in Madison County; and

6 Whereas, Mars Hill College was chartered by the North Carolina General
7 Assembly in 1859; and

8 Whereas, Dr. R.L. Moore, a native of Caldwell County, became the 17th
9 president of Mars Hill College in 1898 and served in that position for 41 years; and

10 Whereas, during Dr. Moore's tenure as president, he helped guide the college
11 during its move to a full and accredited junior college, allowing Mars Hill to become
12 one of the premier junior colleges in the country at that time; and

13 Whereas, a photo history book about Mars Hill College, Through the Long
14 Years, stated "Over the next 41 years, Dr. Moore led in the erection of nine new
15 buildings and the improvement of other facilities, increased the faculty and the
16 enrollment, transformed the academic programs to the junior college curriculum,
17 significantly raised the college's reputation in the academic world so that graduates
18 could easily transfer to senior colleges, greatly upgraded communication with
19 constituents through publications, and achieved and maintained financial stability. By
20 the time he retired in June 1938 the college was in good shape and ready for a new and
21 promising era."; and

22 Whereas, Mars Hill College transitioned to a four-year college in the early
23 1960s, awarding its first baccalaureate degrees in 1964; and

24 Whereas, today, Mars Hill College offers 30 majors and 33 minors and serves
25 the needs of adults in the region by offering evening classes in six counties; and

26 Whereas, Mars Hill College is the home of the Liston B. Ramsey Center for
27 Regional Studies; and

1 Whereas, Mars Hill College continues its longstanding mission to educate
2 first-generation college students, awarding \$2 million in Title III grants and having a
3 large number of participants in the Bonner Scholars Program; and

4 Whereas, 60% of the students enrolled at Mars Hill College are North
5 Carolinians; and

6 Whereas, more western North Carolina K-12 teachers come from Mars Hill
7 College than any other private institution; and

8 Whereas, in a recent statewide review of all teacher preparation programs,
9 Mars Hill College was ranked fourth among the 31 private North Carolina institutions;
10 and

11 Whereas, Mars Hill College was among the first institutions of higher
12 education in the State to be fully integrated and has consistently led the Western North
13 Carolina colleges in percentage of minority enrollment; and

14 Whereas, Mars Hill College is the oldest institution of higher education in
15 Western North Carolina still located on its original site and is the home of the Mars Hill
16 College Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

17 Whereas, Mars Hill College was one of the first institutions of higher
18 education to give emphasis to service learning for undergraduates, which has
19 contributed to the institution's alumni as being known as some of the most dedicated
20 and service-oriented students; and

21 Whereas, Mars Hill College has approximately 19,000 living alumni, of
22 which more than 10,000 are North Carolina residents; and

23 Whereas, many of Mars Hill College's alumni have found success as college
24 and university presidents and chancellors; and

25 Whereas, Mars Hill College alumni include Lamar Stringfield, founder of the
26 North Carolina Symphony, and Douglas Ferguson, founder of the Pigeon Forge Pottery;
27 and

28 Whereas, Mars Hill College competes in 19 intercollegiate sports as a
29 member of the NCAA Division II; and

30 Whereas, Mars Hill College contributes to the economy of Madison County,
31 serving as the second largest employer in the County; and

32 Whereas, Mars Hill College is the birthplace of Bascom Lamar Lunsford,
33 known as the "Minstrel of the Appalachians"; and

34 Whereas, Mars Hill College is home of the Southern Appalachian Repertory
35 Theatre and the Bailey Mountain Cloggers, 13-time national champions; and

36 Whereas, Mars Hill College has been having a yearlong celebration in honor
37 of its 150th anniversary; Now, therefore,

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

39 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes and honors the founders of
40 Mars Hill College for their vision, commends the institution for its contributions to
41 North Carolina and its people, and extends congratulations on the institution's
42 sesquicentennial anniversary.

43 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
44 resolution to the President of Mars Hill College.

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SECTION 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.