

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 21
Committee Substitute Adopted 3/19/97

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 3, 1997

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOHN
2 SHORTRIDGE, FOUNDER OF THE CITY OF HAMLET, ON THE CITY'S ONE
3 HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

4 Whereas, on February 9, 1997, the City of Hamlet in Richmond County
5 celebrated 100 years of incorporation; and

6 Whereas, the founding of the City of Hamlet can be traced to John Shortridge,
7 one of the city's earliest settlers; and

8 Whereas, John Shortridge was born in Carlisle, England, in 1818, and at the
9 age of 20, he and his mother immigrated to the United States, settling in Rhode Island;
10 and

11 Whereas, John Shortridge married Mary Jane McQuiston in 1838; and

12 Whereas, John Shortridge moved his family to Rockingham, North Carolina, in
13 1847, and at that time, John Shortridge became associated with the Richmond
14 Manufacturing Company; and

15 Whereas, John Shortridge found success in milling and real estate, built a
16 sawmill and a woolen mill; and for the next 25 years, he and his wife raised their children
17 in the Ledbetter Mill area; and

18 Whereas, following the destruction of his mills in 1865, and the death of his
19 wife in 1868, John Shortridge moved to an area known as the Sandhills, a few miles
20 southeast of the Ledbetter Mill area in 1872; and

1 Whereas, John Shortridge built a new woolen mill and sawmill and began to
2 regain his losses; and

3 Whereas, the area where John Shortridge lived came to be known as Shortridge
4 Mills, but in 1873 the area was named Hamlet, a word used to describe a small village;
5 and

6 Whereas, John Shortridge's notable contributions to the City of Hamlet include
7 enticing the railroad to come directly to the city, donating land for the railroad, allowing
8 his home to be used for the city's first post office, and donating land for a church and
9 helping to erect the church; and

10 Whereas, John Shortridge died in 1882; and

11 Whereas, many of John Shortridge's descendants continue to live in the City of
12 Hamlet; and

13 Whereas, Hamlet's 100th anniversary and John Shortridge's contributions to
14 the development of Hamlet are worthy of celebration and should be enjoyed and
15 supported by all of North Carolina's citizens;

16 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

17 Section 1. The House of Representatives honors the life and memory of John
18 Shortridge and urges the citizens of this State to participate in all activities
19 commemorating the 100th anniversary of the City of Hamlet.

20 Section 2. The Principal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the
21 Mayor of the City of Hamlet.

22 Section 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.