

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 121

Sponsors: Representatives Judy Hunt; Dickson and Mercer.

Referred to: Rules.

February 21, 1991

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF THOMAS
2 MEREDITH, ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE
3 GRANTING OF THE CHARTER TO BAPTIST FEMALE UNIVERSITY
4 (MEREDITH COLLEGE) BY THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY.

6 Whereas, Thomas Meredith was valedictorian of the graduating class of the
7 University of Pennsylvania in 1816; and

8 Whereas, Thomas Meredith came to Edenton in 1817 as a missionary to
9 North Carolina; and

10 Whereas, Thomas Meredith founded and began regular publication of the
11 Biblical Recorder in 1835 in New Bern and moved it to Raleigh in 1838; and

12 Whereas, Thomas Meredith served on a committee appointed by the North
13 Carolina Baptist State Convention at its 1835 session held at Union Camp Ground in
14 Rowan County to study the establishment of a female seminary; and

15 Whereas, Thomas Meredith continued to serve on that committee which in
16 1836 acknowledged "the great importance of female education" and urged "upon the
17 Baptist public generally to avail themselves, as far as their circumstances will allow, of
18 the facilities now in existence for cultivating the minds of their daughters in order to
19 raise up a generation of women who shall employ all that influence and control which
20 are conceded to them in every civilized and Christian country, on the side of liberal
21 sentiment and to sway the minds of men in behalf of virtue and religion;" and

22 Whereas, Thomas Meredith authored a resolution adopted by the Baptist
23 State Convention on November 6, 1838, which argued in part, "that there are but few

1 female schools of much standing in our State –... that our people are therefore
2 compelled either to keep their daughters at home uneducated, or send them to other
3 states, at an enormous expense and much inconvenience—constitute, in the view of your
4 committee, sufficient evidence that a seminary adapted to the wants of our people, and
5 located in central part of the State, is an object much to be desired;“and

6 Whereas, Thomas Meredith continued to argue for the cause of the
7 establishment of a female seminary in the conventions which followed and in the pages
8 of the Biblical Recorder, which he edited for 20 years; and

9 Whereas, Thomas Meredith argued that cause until his death in 1850; and

10 Whereas, Thomas Meredith's dream was realized when the 1891 North
11 Carolina State Legislature issued a charter on February 27 for Baptist Female
12 University; and

13 Whereas, Baptist Female University was opened in 1899, its name changed to
14 Baptist University for Women in 1904, and changed once more in 1910 to Meredith
15 College in honor of Thomas Meredith; and

16 Whereas, Meredith College for 100 years has held steadily to the ideals of
17 academic integrity and religious influence cherished by its founders, trustees, faculty,
18 staff, alumnae, and students; and

19 Whereas, Meredith College honors its proud heritage and expands its vision
20 as it enters a second century of providing scholarly and spiritual education for women;
21 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

22 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Thomas
23 Meredith, whose actions, example, ideals, and deeds led to the founding of Meredith
24 College and joins in commemorating the centennial celebration of the issuance of its
25 charter.

26 Sec. 2. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
27 to the President of Meredith College.

28 Sec. 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.