

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 2007  
RATIFIED BILL**

**RESOLUTION 2008-24  
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2774**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, Frank Capra, Jr., was well respected in his adopted City of Wilmington and served as the Grand Marshall of the North Carolina Azalea Festival in

1995 and was named the 2007 Citizen of the Year by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2008.

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Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

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Joe Hackney  
Speaker of the House of Representatives