

No. R-209. House concurrent resolution honoring Frank Thornton of Charlotte.

(H.C.R.152)

Offered by: Representative Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Baruth, Fox, Lyons, Miller and Snelling

Whereas, Frank Thornton is perhaps more intimately acquainted with the history of Charlotte than any other living resident of the town, and

Whereas, as the town's unofficial historian, Frank Thornton is well versed in Charlotte's legal development dating from its being chartered in 1762, and

Whereas, the entire breadth of selectboard minutes and adopted ordinances, and even those proposed that never gained the board's assent, extending back to the 18th century are documents he knows well, and

Whereas, the research methodology Frank Thornton prefers is premised on firsthand observations and not only archival and library-centered investigations, and

Whereas, he has often walked through Charlotte, both alone and as the leader of organized community outings, many under the auspices of the Charlotte Historical Society, identifying older homes, the location of farms, and learning about the individuals associated with these sites, and

Whereas, Frank Thornton researched the history of Charlotte's roads, and his comprehensive findings are compiled in a book which is now kept in the town vault, and

Whereas, on a continuing basis, he has written a series of articles entitled “Looking Back” which have been published in the *Charlotte News*, and

Whereas, among the topics covered in his historical vignettes are shiftily brides, discussing the correlation of a woman’s marital status and right to own property; poverty in Charlotte, discussing the pauper laws and their impact on Charlotte; and an analysis of 19th-century town warnings ordering the departure from the town of specified individuals, and

Whereas, a desire to serve Charlotte’s citizenry in a more contemporary context prompted Frank Thornton to stand for election to the Charlotte selectboard, on which he served with great distinction for many years and was a much-respected member, and

Whereas, in 2010, Frank Thornton concluded his tenure on the selectboard, and on February 23, 2011, a grateful town honored him for his roles as community servant and town historian, and paid tribute to his wife, Mary, who is so much a part of his life, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Frank Thornton of Charlotte, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Frank Thornton in Charlotte.