



PROCLAMATION HONORING CHARLIE C POOLE

Whereas, Charles Cleveland "Charlie" Poole was born in Randolph County, North Carolina, on March 22, 1892; and

Whereas, like so many of his contemporaries during the early 20th century in the South, Charlie Poole followed the jobs available in the textile industry, and moved to the important textile complex at Spray, North Carolina, now known as Eden, around 1918; and

Whereas, in the mill towns of Spray, Leaksville, and Draper, Charlie Poole discovered a rich musical community, fed in part by the provision of professional music teachers for workers by mill management; and

Whereas, upon arrival in Spray, Charlie Poole met Posey Rorer, an accomplished fiddler, and later, Norman Woodlieff, a guitarist; and

Whereas, this trio of musicians formed an historic musical group named the North Carolina Ramblers; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Ramblers, led by Charlie Poole, journeyed to New York City to make a recording for Columbia Records in June, 1925; and

Whereas, the band's first recording, "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down" sold an astonishing 102,000 copies during the beginnings of the country music record industry, and this recording is now listed in the Grammy Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Ramblers, with later replacement artists Roy Harvey and Lonnie Austin, among others, but always led by Charlie Poole, continued to produce hit recordings until 1930 when the Great Depression began; and

Whereas, Charlie Poole, by developing a unique style of banjo playing, and by producing a cohesive band sound that influenced generations of later musicians, became the father of country music, paving the way with his success for later influential artists such as the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers; and

Whereas, Charlie Poole's music continues to be enjoyed today by a worldwide audience; and

Whereas, the annual celebration of his music in his adopted hometown, the Charlie Poole Music Festival, is celebrating its twentieth year; and

Whereas, as fellow citizens of Eden, North Carolina, we recognize and salute the far-reaching musical influence and genius reflected in the life of Charlie Poole; Now, therefore,

Now, therefore, I, Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Eden, do hereby deem it a pleasure to extend this proclamation honoring the late Charlie Poole.

In witness whereof, I do hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Eden to be affixed this 19th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen.

Wayne Tuggle, Sr., Mayor of the City of Eden