



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**PUBLIC LIBRARY OF JOHNSTON COUNTY AND SMITHFIELD DAY**

**2017**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, a group of young women from Smithfield Graded School started a library in 1912 by collecting books as admission to a pantomime; and

**WHEREAS**, that library eventually became the Smithfield Public Library; and

**WHEREAS**, the Johnston County Commissioners approved the creation of the Johnston County Public Library in 1941; and

**WHEREAS**, the Johnston County Commissioners and Smithfield Town Council approved the merger of the two libraries forming the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield in 1966; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield opened to the public in a new building at the corner of Market and Third Streets in 1967; and

**WHEREAS**, expansion into the building next door to the library was completed in 2003, increasing the library's size to 34,000 square feet; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield joined NC Cardinal, a library consortium that now has 161 branches and over 6.4 million items available to its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield's mission is to enhance the overall quality of life in its communities by promoting and developing readers of all ages and cultivating in them a passion for lifelong reading and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield is a bedrock institution of its communities that continues to create young readers, inspire lifelong learning, connect its patrons to an online world, stimulate imaginations, and provide a comfortable place for its community members to gather; and

**WHEREAS**, 2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2, 2017, as "PUBLIC LIBRARY OF JOHNSTON COUNTY AND SMITHFIELD DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.