

Washington, D.C. - Representatives Bob Etheridge (NC-02) and David Price (NC-04) praised a House of Representatives vote today, which honors the historical and community significance of the Chatham County Courthouse. The resolution was co-sponsored by the entire North Carolina delegation.

"The people of Chatham County have been through a lot in the last year and this fire will serve to remind us that we can remember the past, rebuild for the future, and persevere for the good of our families and towns," Etheridge said. "The restoration effort will involve a lot of effort by a lot of people, and I will work with local officials to help rebuild the courthouse."

"Although the building will be rebuilt in time and many of the records lost will be recreated, I grieve with the Chatham County community today for the loss of the courthouse," Price said. "County courthouses are the cornerstones of justice and the rule of law in our communities but attain a significance larger than their day-to-day role."

The resolution was prompted by the March 25, 2010 fire which partially destroyed the Chatham County Courthouse. Both congressmen and elected county officials have publicly commended local firefighters and emergency responders for their response and bravery during the catastrophe. The building had stood proudly since 1881 and had a central role in the local pride and independence felt by Chatham residents.

Rebuilding and restoration efforts have begun on the building thanks to community support. Government officials with the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, Chatham County and the Town of Pittsboro have worked since the fire to enable the continued operation of the local courts.

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