

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 82

Sponsors: Representatives Ellis; and Capps.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 26, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF
2 WENDELL ON THE TOWN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

3 Whereas, the Town of Wendell was founded on several parcels of land with
4 the main part of the town being located on the farm of Ruffin "Toad" Richardson; and

5 Whereas, this area was originally known as the Rhodes School House
6 Community and was inhabited by approximately 20 families; and

7 Whereas, in 1891, the post office was chartered and the schoolmaster, M.A.
8 Griffin, requested that the post office be named in honor of Oliver Wendell Holmes,
9 noted poet, physician, and teacher, who lived from 1809 until 1894, thus changing the
10 name of the area to Wendell; and

11 Whereas, Wendell was incorporated by the General Assembly on March 6,
12 1903; and

13 Whereas, the first Board of Commissioners was comprised of Mayor Burrell
14 Baker and Commissioners E.Z. Todd, R.B. Todd, J.W. Liles, E.V. Richardson, and T.J.
15 Wheeler; and

16 Whereas, in 1906, the railroad between Raleigh and Wilson, known as the
17 Norfolk-Southern Railroad, was completed; and

18 Whereas, the train conductors used both syllables, "Wen" and "Dell", when
19 calling out the name of the Town, which explains the unusual pronunciation of
20 "Wendell"; and

21 Whereas, Wendell was laid out to be ½ square mile in the shape of an
22 octagon, with the streets that ran from north to south named for trees and the streets that
23 ran east to west numbered; and

24 Whereas, Wendell originally had two main avenues, Marshburn Road and
25 Wilson Avenue, which is now known as Wendell Boulevard; and

26 Whereas, Wendell started its own power company in 1913 and established its
27 own water and sewer department in 1919; and

28 Whereas, in 1924, Main Street, from Second Street to Wilson Avenue, and
29 Third Street, from Cypress Street to Pine Street, became the first paved streets in
30 Wendell; and

1 Whereas, Wendell began to grow due to sawmill and farming businesses,
2 with cotton as the major money crop and later tobacco; and

3 Whereas, Wendell was the location of the first tobacco market in Wake
4 County outside of Raleigh, the first Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in Wake County,
5 and the first town-supported library in Wake County; and

6 Whereas, today Wendell has a thriving textile industry; and

7 Whereas, the official town tree is the crab apple; and

8 Whereas, Wendell is continuing to grow, improve, and prosper through the
9 continued dedication, insight, and planning of concerned leaders and citizens; Now,
10 therefore,

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

12 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the founders of the Town of
13 Wendell and extends its sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Town of Wendell
14 upon the Town's 100th anniversary.

15 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
16 resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Wendell.

17 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.