

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 140\***

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Sponsors: Representatives Haire, West (Primary Sponsors); and Fisher.

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

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February 9, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF  
2 FRANKLIN ON THE TOWN'S 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

3           Whereas, in 1820, the North Carolina General Assembly set aside 400 acres  
4 as the seat of government in Macon County and authorized the sale of 20 town lots to  
5 establish the town site; and

6           Whereas, Jesse Franklin, together with James Meabin, was appointed to  
7 survey the 400 acres and locate the county seat, now the Town of Franklin in its present  
8 site; and

9           Whereas, the first house, a small round log cabin, was built shortly thereafter  
10 by Joshua Roberts; and

11           Whereas, on December 3, 1832, the Baptist Church was granted three acres  
12 and 72 poles of land, and on January 10, 1835, the Methodist-Episcopal Church received  
13 a grant for three acres of land at \$3.00 an acre; and

14           Whereas, the Town of Franklin was established by an act of the General  
15 Assembly on February 10, 1855, and was named for Jesse Franklin, the surveyor; and

16           Whereas, the act provided "corporate limits of said town shall be one-half  
17 mile from the courthouse in every direction"; and

18           Whereas, the Sheriff of Macon County called for the first town election to be  
19 held at the courthouse in October 1855, when five commissioners were elected – J.M.  
20 Lyle, John Reid, N.G. Allman, J.R. Siler, and J. Jackson Johnson; and

21           Whereas, on December 12, 1855, the five commissioners appointed J.R. Siler,  
22 Chairman; J. Jackson Johnson, Secretary and Treasurer; Jonathan M. Bryson, Town  
23 Magistrate, and A.M. Bell, Constable; and

24           Whereas, much of the early history contained in the town minutes between  
25 1855 and 1903 was destroyed in a fire; and

26           Whereas, in 1946, the Town purchased the sacred Nikwasi Mound site, the  
27 center of an ancient village of the Middle Cherokees that was listed on the National  
28 Historical Registry in September 1981; and

1           Whereas, Dr. Edgar Angel and Dr. Furman Angel established a medical  
2 practice and medical facility in 1924 – the forerunner of Angel Medical Center, a  
3 modern facility with 25 physicians serving Western North Carolina; and

4           Whereas, a series of town parks have been connected by a two-mile greenway  
5 located on the bank of the Little Tennessee River; and

6           Whereas, the Town of Franklin has become a commercial, industrial, and  
7 retail business center for Western North Carolina; and

8           Whereas, land has been purchased and plans are being drawn for the  
9 relocation and construction of a new town hall, police station, offices, and equipment  
10 building; and

11           Whereas, the preserved town square along with the conversion of the old jail  
12 to a museum shows the town’s respect for the town’s past and optimism for its future;  
13 Now, therefore,

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

15           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to honor the memory of the  
16 founders and early residents of the Town of Franklin for their contributions to North  
17 Carolina.

18           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly congratulates the Town of Franklin on  
19 its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and encourages the people of this State to join the citizens of  
20 Franklin in celebrating this historic occasion.

21           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
22 resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Franklin.

23           **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.