

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1559*

Sponsors: Senator Atwater.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

April 26, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE EARLY SETTLERS OF LEE COUNTY
2 ON THE COUNTY'S ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

3 Whereas, Lee County was formed from Chatham and Moore counties and
4 named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee; and

5 Whereas, Lee County was created on March 6, 1907, by the General
6 Assembly through legislation that required approval of the voters; and

7 Whereas, on July 2, 1907, a majority of the voters gave their approval for the
8 establishment of the State's 98th county; and

9 Whereas, on February 10, 1908, Governor Robert Broadnax Glenn appointed
10 J. L. Godfrey, J. F. Womble, J. F. Jones, J. R. Jones, and J. J. Edwards, who served as
11 Chair, to the Lee County Board of Commissioners; and

12 Whereas, the County's early inhabitants included Native Americans and
13 people from many countries and nationalities, including Highland Scots, Germans,
14 English, Africans, and Scotch-Irish; and

15 Whereas, Lee County's early economy centered on agriculture, naval stores,
16 and iron works, which supplied the State with necessary iron goods during the
17 American Revolution; and

18 Whereas, in 1853, coal was discovered in the Egypt community (now
19 Comnock), and in 1855, the Egypt Mine opened as the State's first commercial coal
20 mine; and

21 Whereas, expansion of the railroad in the area further contributed to the
22 County's growth and aided in the establishment of new industries, including tobacco
23 harvesting, brownstone quarrying, furniture making, brickworks, and textiles; and

24 Whereas, some of Lee County's notable citizens have included Reverend
25 William D. Paisley, a Presbyterian minister; Herman Husband, a pioneer and leader in
26 the Regulator Movement; Charles D. McIver, an educator and the first president of the
27 University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and A.A.F. Seawell, who served as North
28 Carolina's Attorney General and as a State Supreme Court justice during the 1930s; and

29 Whereas, Lee County has continued to grow and flourish, making significant
30 contributions to the State of North Carolina; and

1 Whereas, according to the 2000 census, Lee County had a population of
2 50,000, a significant increase above the 2,262 residents recorded in 1910; and

3 Whereas, plans have been made to celebrate the County's anniversary
4 throughout 2007, including a Centennial Celebration on July 2, 2007; and

5 Whereas, the County's anniversary is worthy of celebration and should be
6 enjoyed and supported by all North Carolinians; Now, therefore,

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

8 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the early settlers of Lee County
9 for their contributions to North Carolina.

10 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly congratulates Lee County on its 100th
11 anniversary and encourages the people of this State to join the citizens of Lee County in
12 celebrating this historic occasion.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
14 resolution to the Chair of the Lee County Board of Commissioners.

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