

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1997**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1603**

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Sponsors: Senators Cochrane; Foxx, Kinnaird, Lucas, Perdue, and Winner.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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July 20, 1998

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING LILLIAN E. CLEMENT, THE FIRST  
2 WOMAN TO SERVE IN THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON  
3 THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ORDER OF WOMEN  
4 LEGISLATORS.

5       Whereas, 1998 will mark the 150th anniversary of the Women's Rights  
6 Movement in the United States, a bold and courageous civil rights movement that began  
7 in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, at the first Women's Rights Convention ever held;  
8 and

9       Whereas, the Declaration of Sentiments issued by that convention represents  
10 a work as fundamental to our nation's commitment to liberty and personal freedom as  
11 does our Declaration of Independence; and

12       Whereas, the Declaration of Sentiments launched a movement that has  
13 changed this nation and the hopes of its women irrevocably; and

14       Whereas, the resulting Women's Rights Movement has had a profound impact  
15 on all aspects of American life and has opened new and well-deserved opportunities for  
16 women in all fields of endeavor; and

17       Whereas, despite one and one-half centuries of efforts now spanning seven  
18 generations of unceasing work to achieve equality for one-half the American  
19 population, the twenty-first century will find an ever-increasing need for both women  
20 and men to share in the fundamental responsibilities for our national life and the  
21 blessings that must result from full and equal participation in society; and

1           Whereas, the National Order of Women Legislators, established in 1938, was  
2 formed not long after women's suffrage was added to the United States Constitution as  
3 the 19th Amendment; and

4           Whereas, not only have women won the right to vote, they are being elected  
5 to public office at all levels of government; and

6           Whereas, it is the strongly-held belief of this legislature that, while much  
7 remains to be accomplished, the Women's Rights Movement has been tremendously  
8 successful in changing the status of women in this country; and

9           Whereas, on the 60th anniversary of the National Order of Women  
10 Legislators, Inc., the General Assembly pauses to pay tribute for the life and  
11 accomplishments of Lillian E. Clement of Buncombe County, who in 1921 was elected  
12 to the House of Representatives, becoming the first woman to serve in the North  
13 Carolina General Assembly; Now, therefore,

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

15           Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Lillian E.  
16 Clement and commends the National Order of Women Legislators upon the occasion of  
17 the organization's 60th Anniversary and celebrates the Order's 60 years of leadership  
18 and commitment to public service.

19           Section 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.