

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 359
Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Adopted 10/3/01**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 7, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HENRY
2 EVANS, FOUNDER OF EVANS METROPOLITAN AME ZION CHURCH ON
3 THE CHURCH'S TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

4 Whereas, in 1801, Henry Evans, a free black cobbler and Methodist minister
5 from Virginia, settled in the City of Fayetteville, believing it was by divine appointment
6 that he preach the Gospel to the people in the area; and

7 Whereas, Henry Evans found resistance to his preaching and was accused of
8 several crimes, including suspicion of being a runaway slave, and was driven out of
9 town; and

10 Whereas, despite many obstacles, Henry Evans remained in the area and
11 continued preaching; and

12 Whereas, in 1801, the Methodist Society led by Henry Evans built its first
13 church known as Evans Meeting House; and

14 Whereas, Henry Evans was the first black preacher to establish a
15 congregation in the Methodist system; and

16 Whereas, in 1802, Fayetteville town leaders granted Henry Evans a license to
17 preach; and

18 Whereas, in 1831, the congregation at Evans Meeting House was composed
19 of 333 blacks and 145 whites; and

20 Whereas, both blacks and whites worshiped together at Evans Meeting House
21 until 1850; and

22 Whereas, in 1866, the Evans Metropolitan Church joined the African
23 Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion denomination and became the first church of the
24 Fayetteville District of the Central North Carolina Conference; and

25 Whereas, for 200 years, the Evans Metropolitan AME Zion Church of
26 Fayetteville has provided a place of worship for the community and the surrounding
27 area; Now, therefore,

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Henry
2 Evans and congratulates the Evans Metropolitan AME Zion Church on its 200th
3 anniversary.

4 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
5 resolution to the Pastor of Evans Metropolitan AME Zion Church.

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