

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1790*

Sponsors: Representatives Guice; Carney, Hughes, and Pierce.

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

May 19, 2010

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY
2 ON THE OCCASION OF THE COUNTY'S ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH
3 ANNIVERSARY.

4 Whereas, Transylvania County was formed from Henderson and Jackson Counties
5 by an act of the State Legislature in 1861; and

6 Whereas, the act was introduced by Hendersonville attorney and representative of
7 the House of Commons in the General Assembly, Joseph P. Jordan; and

8 Whereas, Transylvania County's name was derived from the words trans ("across")
9 and silva or sylva ("woods"); and

10 Whereas, the many tributes and events of historical importance make Transylvania
11 County truly unique; and

12 Whereas, the City of Brevard, laid out on land donated by Braxton C. Lankford,
13 Leander S. Gash, and Alex F. England, was established as the county seat in 1868 and was
14 named for Dr. Ephraim Brevard, who helped write the Declaration of Independence for
15 Mecklenburg County and served his burgeoning young nation as a surgeon during the
16 American Revolution; and

17 Whereas, perhaps the most widely known pioneer family in the County's past, the
18 Gillespie family (formerly Gillaspie), has had a historical impact reaching far beyond the upper
19 French Broad River as the founders of Transylvania County's famed clan of gunsmiths. The
20 father, John Gillespie, also fought in the American Revolution and has been added to the
21 honored roll of veterans of the American War for Independence who were laid to rest in
22 Transylvania County; and

23 Whereas, in 1902, Joseph S. and Elizabeth Mount Silversteen came to Transylvania
24 County as a young couple and embarked on a lifetime of business and civic leadership. The
25 Silversteen family provided jobs for thousands of people throughout the County at their
26 Toxaway Tanning, Gloucester Lumber, and Rosman Tanning Extract companies in Rosman
27 and Transylvania Tanning in Brevard. The Silversteen's legacy of civic and cultural
28 involvement continues to benefit the citizens of Transylvania County today; and

29 Whereas, the original Brevard Rosenwald School for African-Americans was
30 constructed in 1920 and was a place of learning and of celebrating one's identity and,
31 furthermore, emphasized the need for the students themselves to be caring, compassionate
32 citizens; and

33 Whereas, Transylvania County became the State's first public school system to
34 integrate, beginning in 1963, and became fully integrated in 1966, and Brevard High School
35 was the first North Carolina high school to field integrated athletic teams, beginning with its
36 1963 State champion football team; and



1 Whereas, Brevard College, an internationally recognized liberal arts institution,
2 formed in 1853, is the oldest college or university in the mountains of Western North Carolina;
3 and

4 Whereas, residents of Transylvania County take pride in the cultural resources in the
5 County, including the Brevard Music Center, an internationally known summer institute which
6 provides outstanding opportunities for students to learn and work with some of music's
7 acknowledged professionals; an excellent public library known statewide for its high usage and
8 contributions to the community's cultural life; a public school system recognized across North
9 Carolina as of the highest caliber; a broad faith community, with churches throughout the
10 County; and a remarkable array of rich, indigenous mountain music and renowned arts and
11 crafts; and

12 Whereas, Transylvania County is known as the "Land of Waterfalls," as it is blessed
13 with over 250 waterfalls, partially due to the fact that parts of Transylvania County receive the
14 largest amount of rainfall in the State; and

15 Whereas, the Blue Ridge Parkway traverses parts of the County, affording
16 spectacular views of the Appalachian Mountains, which reach over 6,000 in feet elevation in
17 the County, with the highest point being Chestnut Knob, which lies northwest of the county
18 seat; and

19 Whereas, the Cradle of Forestry in America is a 6,500-acre historic site within the
20 Pisgah National Forest which attracts more than 40,000 visitors annually. Officially established
21 in 1968, its roots begin with Carl Schenck's Biltmore Forest School, the first forestry school in
22 America. The Cradle's Forest Discovery Center offers visitors a hands-on experience in
23 conservation, history, and resource management, telling the story of the history of the area and
24 early forest practices; and

25 Whereas, Transylvania County citizens have always answered the call to serve in
26 our nation's military forces in peace and wartime. Beginning with the Spanish-American War,
27 through World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and now in
28 Iraq and Afghanistan, our citizens were there. Both men and women served willingly and
29 honorably in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard.
30 Some did not return, answering the ultimate call; and

31 Whereas, Transylvania County has contributed to the social, economic, cultural, and
32 political prosperity of the State of North Carolina; and

33 Whereas, Transylvania County has continued to grow and prosper through the
34 continued dedication, insight, and planning of the County's concerned leaders and citizens; and

35 Whereas, Transylvania County has a population of approximately 30,000 people;
36 and

37 Whereas, Transylvania County is divided into nine townships: Balsam Grove,
38 Brevard, Catheys Creek, Cedar Mountain, Dunns Rock, Lake Toxaway, Little River, Pisgah
39 Forest, and Rosman; and

40 Whereas, plans have been made to celebrate Transylvania County's 150th historic
41 anniversary throughout 2011; and

42 Whereas, this occasion is worthy of celebration and should be enjoyed and
43 supported by all North Carolinians; Now, therefore,

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

45 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the founders of Transylvania County
46 and encourages the citizens of this State to join Transylvania County in demonstrating respect
47 for their history and heritage during the County's 150th anniversary.

48 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
49 resolution to the Chair of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners.

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